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OPINION METER

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INSIDE

New Hurricane

Dolly spun into a hurricane Tuesday, heading toward the U.S.-Mexico border.

NATION...Page 14



In Plain Sight

For more than a decade, the world's most-wanted war crimes fugitive displayed a talent for eluding justice.

WORLD...Page 16



Estelle Getty, 84

Estelle Getty, the sarcastic octogenarian Sophia on TV's "The Golden Girls," has died. She was 84.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

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Management deal may prompt Palms Resort renovation. **PAGE 5**

CUC tries privatization—again

By AGNES E. DONATO
agnes_donato@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is renewing efforts to privatize its aging power plant on Saipan.

CUC executive director Antonio S. Muna said CUC plans to seek proposals from private companies

See **CUC** on Page 4



AP

A 2004 file photo show the view from the cockpit in flight of a B-52 bomber.

Search for four missing bomber crew suspended

HAGATNA, Guam—The U.S. Coast Guard suspended yesterday the search for survivors of a U.S. Air Force B-52 that crashed more than 25 miles off shore July 21.

About 6:30pm yesterday,

the last searches for survivors were completed. However, debris recovery efforts will continue. The Coast Guard crafted search plans for more than 49 different air and surface mis-

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Traffic deaths fall as gas prices climb

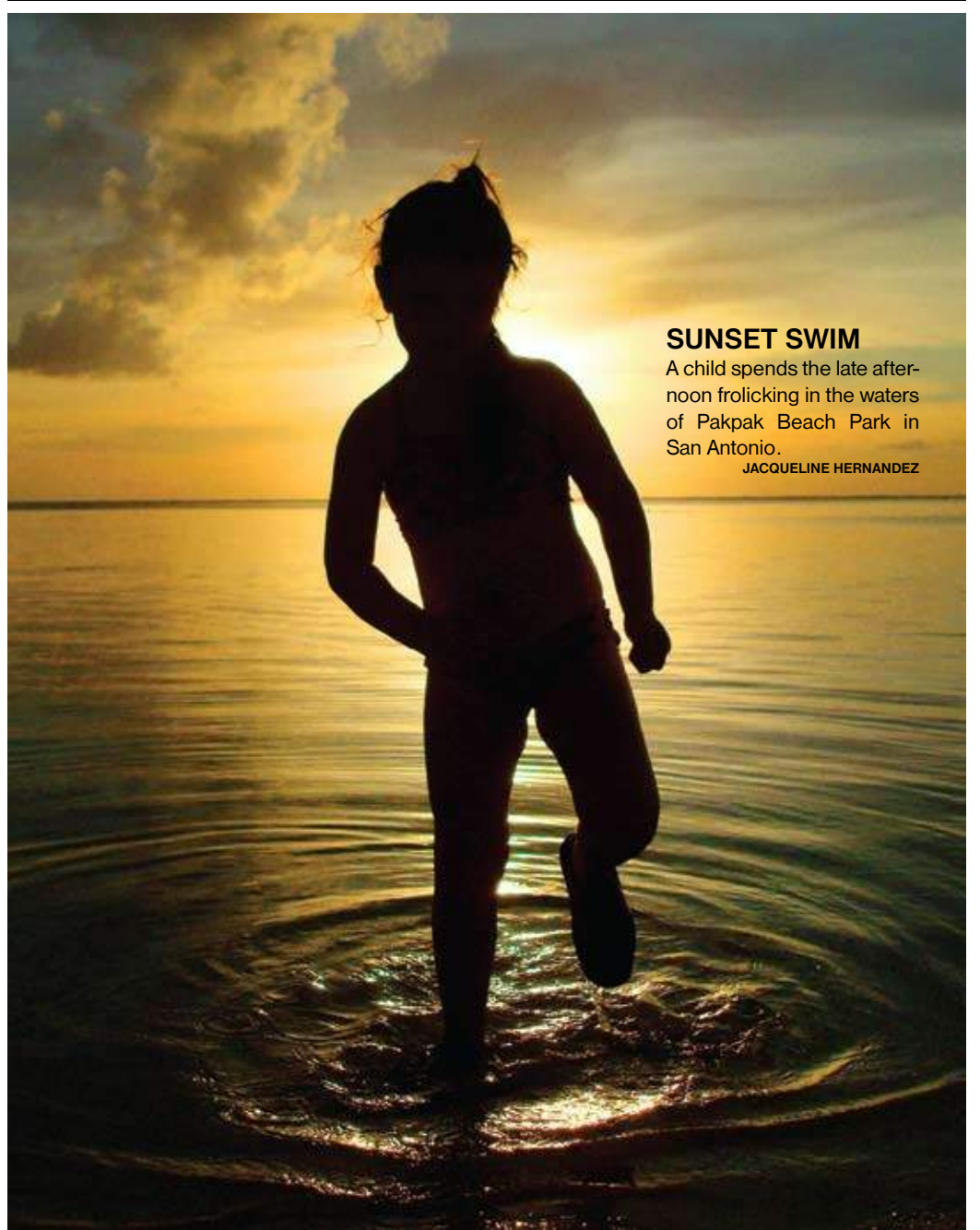
By MARK WILLIAMS
AP BUSINESS WRITER

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—Rising prices at the gas pump appear to be having at least one positive effect: Traffic deaths around the country are plummeting, just as they did during

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ON THE NET

- National Governors Highway Safety Association: <http://www.ghsa.org/>
- National Safety Council: <http://www.nsc.org/>
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration: <http://www.nhtsa.dot.gov/>



SUNSET SWIM

A child spends the late afternoon frolicking in the waters of Pakpak Beach Park in San Antonio.

JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

Alcohol sale license applicants decline

Commerce blames economic downturn for drop

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
Stefan_Sebastian@saipantribune.com
BUSINESS EDITOR

Booze hounds in the Com-

monwealth have lost scores of places to tie one on, according to a newly released tally from the CNMI Department of

Commerce of establishments licensed to sell alcohol—a sign of the ongoing downturn in the

See **ALCOHOL** on Page 4



Hans Mickelson

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Local

New OPA chief vows independence, fairness

By **AGNES E. DONATO**
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REPORTER

The newly appointed public auditor assumed the post yesterday, vowing to keep the office independent and fair.

Michael Pai, who replaced Michael Sablan as chief of the Office of the Public Auditor, said he looks forward to the

challenge of his new job. He has spent his entire career to date in the private business sector and has never previously served in government.

Pai said he was offered the OPA job only last Saturday, when Finance Secretary Eloy S. Inos called him about the appointment.

"To be offered an appoint-

ment like this is quite an honor for me. And it seemed like a very challenging position. It was very tough to turn down the honor and the challenge," he said.

Pai spent his first day discussing administrative issues with Sablan. Today, the two will meet again to talk about the OPA's ongoing audits and investigations.

"The amount of information is overwhelming. It will probably take me several weeks to settle in. But from what I've seen so far, I think that being independent, fair and factual is what's most important. I'd like to maintain those as my basic standards," Pai said.

Pai will serve in an acting capacity until the Senate and the House of Representatives confirm his appointment. If confirmed, he will serve a six-year term.

The Fitial administration outlined its expectations of Pai. "The Administration would like to see more full-blown audits, not just mere reports, but full-scale audits based on generally accepted accounting principles and all of the applicable standards for such audits," said press secretary Charles P. Reyes Jr.

Reyes highlighted Pai's qualifications. "Mike Pai represents the best of both worlds. He has been a long-time resident of the CNMI, but he is not politically aligned with any political party or with any well-connected local family. He is an objective and impartial choice based on substantial accounting experience and professional credentials," he added.



Michael Pai



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Japanese students arriving on Friday

Japanese students will get a taste of Saipanese culture beginning Friday.

Twenty-one students from Tokyo will arrive Friday to take part in the 29th annual Kokusai Seiyounen Kensyuu Kyokai exchange program.

The students, ages 8 to 14, will live with local families for two days and at Hopwood Jr. High School for two days.

A second group of Japanese students, from Nagoya and neighboring cities, will arrive Monday to take part in the 30th Annual SANPO-EN. SANPO-EN students, ages 10 to 17, will live in a homestay for eight days.

Besides learning about local culture, the groups will visit historical Japanese sites, said Mayor's Youth Programs Coordinator Olinka Cabrera Chaudhry.

"They're here to pay homage to their past," she said.

Chaudhry said a Buddhist priest would also take part in the activities with the students to bless the sites.

Some of the locations the students will visit include Suicide and Banzai cliffs, Airport Bunker, Bird Island Lookout, the Governor's Office and the Last Command Post.

Local students will go to Japan in October, Chaudhry said.

During their time there, they will visit significant sites and Disneyland, she said.

"They treat our kids the same way we treat theirs," she added.

The Mayor's Office sponsors the program with Saipan's sister cities. (Kristi Eaton)

Charles Cepeda is new Board of Regents chair

By KRISTI EATON
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REPORTER

The Northern Mariana College's Board of Regents announced that Charles V. Cepeda would be the new board chairperson.

Also, Malua T. Peter, a former congresswoman who served for four terms and who now works with the NMI Head Start Program, is the new board vice chair as well as the chairperson of its Legislative Committee.

Former NMC president Agnes M. McPhetres was elected board treasurer and designated chairperson of the Program Committee.

WIA kicks off summer workshops yesterday

By JACQUELINE DELA CRUZ
jackie_delaacruz89@yahoo.com
JUNIOR REPORTER

The Workforce Investment Agency began workshops at American Memorial Park yesterday for a second batch of 266 local students who will hold summer jobs through its Summer Youth Employment and Training Program.

A majority of the participants showed up yesterday to learn more about their summer jobs.

During the morning workshop, participants were oriented on the WIA summer youth program by Vince Merfalen. He gave a presentation on customer service, telephone etiquette, grooming and appearance, and work ethics. The afternoon session featured Richard Hamilton of the U.S Department of Labor.

WIA will be farming out the students to various government and private agencies on Saipan. Some of the agencies include divisions of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, the Public School System, Palms Resort Saipan, Department of Public Works, Northern Marianas College, Ace Hardware, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Bank of Saipan, Marianas Visitors Authority and a number of others.

Interns referred to Fiesta Resort & Spa will be assigned as telephone operators, front desk clerks, sports and recreation staff, wait staff, bellman and others.

Interns referred to the Marianas Visitors Authority will be assigned as administrative assistants, marketing assistants, research assistants, and others.

After a successful completion of the employment and training program workshop, participants will receive a certificate of training and will finally begin work on July 28 until Sept. 5, 2008.

Participants will earn \$4.05 an hour during the six-week period.

According to WIA, all summer participants are required to attend the assigned workshop training.

Other members of the board have been appointed by Cepeda to head key committees. Janet H. King, who works as an attorney at the CNMI Public Defender's Office, will chair the Fiscal Committee, and Elaine Hocog Orilla will chair the Personnel

Freedom Air eyes former Taga hangar

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

Freedom Air is eyeing a local air-line hangar previously occupied by Taga Airlines for a new maintenance and cargo facility after Taga last week handed over its lease on the facility to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Freedom Air official Reno Celis in an interview Wednesday confirmed the company is considering the hangar at Saipan's airport as a future site

Committee. Also serving on the Board of Regents are outgoing board chair Dr. Rita H. Inos and Linsa F. Lizama.

The new leadership assumed their responsibilities at the conclusion of their regular meeting held last Friday, July 18, 2008.

for its operations.

"We've talked to CPA because we're interested in the hangar for cargo and maintenance," Celis said, adding that Freedom Air had hoped to take control of the hangar prior to Taga's lease of it, which came at a \$1,000 per month price tag.

"Now that Taga has pulled themselves out, we're interested in it," he said, noting that a deal is "in the works right now."

Taga airlines "surrendered" its lease on the roughly 10,000

Cepeda, the general manager of Pacific Trading Co., was acting chairperson after Inos stepped down for health reasons. Then-acting chair Joey P. San Nicolas stepped down from the position in May due to family and medical issues

square foot hangar last week, according to acting CPA director Lee Cabrera. The lease sparked controversy last year when it came under review by public auditors after lawmakers raised questions about how the board awarded it to Taga.

The hangar now stands vacant for the time being after Taga's departure. Cabrera said CPA hopes to sign a long-term lease of the site and will review Freedom Air's proposal to take up residence there when it submits one.

"I'm truly honored that the other members have that trust and confidence in me," Cepeda said. "I look forward to partnering with NMC president Carmen Fernandez and the administration to ensure the college regains full accreditation and continues to play a central role in the educational advancement of our people."

While he is the new chairperson, board members need to remember that it is a team effort, Cepeda said.

"We need to work as a team," he said. "We need to communicate frequently and openly."

Cepeda said he and the board

would continue to focus on fixing NMC's accreditation status.

NMC has been on probation since February 2007 and was put on show-cause in February this year because, according to

Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, the school did not address previous concerns.

"That's been our focus and I think we should stick with it," he added.

Cepeda said he is pleased with the progress the NMC administration has made with the accreditation.

"They are doing excellent in working to submit all the requirements and reports requested," he said. "They are continually working to improve NMC's goal to be removed from show-cause."



Cepeda

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Ex-street fighter arrested anew for knocking out wife's brother

Former heavyweight street fighter Antonio Wabol Nekaifes was arrested again, this time for allegedly knocking out the brother of his common-law wife.

Nekaifes, 32, also known as Xcalibur, was arrested for assault and battery.

The alleged victim, Anthony I. Somorang, sustained a swollen right cheek, nose, and lips. He had a black eye and suffered several cuts to the face. He also had abrasions to the back of his head.

In yesterday's hearing, Superior

Court presiding judge Robert Naraja set a \$1,000 property bond for the defendant's temporary liberty.

Arraignment was set for Aug. 4 at 9am.

Detective Andrea C. Ozawa stated in the report that on Sunday night Nekaifes and Somorang had an argument about Nekaifes' common-law wife, Somorang's sister, at Somorang's residence in Chalan Laulau.

The argument escalated into a shov-

ing match, and Nekaifes and Somorang fell to the ground. As Somorang fell, he hit the back of his head against a hollow block, causing the victim to pass out. Nekaifes allegedly went on top of him and punched him repeatedly in the face. Somorang failed to fight back because he had blacked out.

His wife later took him to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room.

On Jan. 10, 2007, the Superior Court sentenced Nekaifes to five years probation in connection with a 2006 criminal case where he reportedly beat up a motorist and assaulted him with a rock in Chalan Laulau. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*

TRAFFIC

From Page 1

the Arab oil embargo three decades ago.

Researchers with the National Safety Council report a 9 percent drop in motor vehicle deaths overall through May compared with the first five months of 2007, including a drop of 18 percent in March and 14 percent in April.

Preliminary figures obtained by The Associated Press show that some states have reported declines of 20 percent or more. Thirty-one states have seen declines of at least 10 percent, and eight states have reported an increase, according to the council.

No one can say definitively why road fatalities are falling, but it is happening as Americans cut back sharply on driving because of record-high gas prices.

Fewer people on the road means fewer fatalities, said Gus Williams, 52, of Albany, Ga., who frequently drives to northern Ohio. "That shows a good thing coming out of this crisis." He has also noticed that many motorists are going slower.

The federal government reported in April that miles traveled fell 1.8 percent in April compared with a year earlier, continuing a trend that began in November.

Experts say a slumping economy and fuel prices have brought down the number of road fatalities in a hurry.

"When the economy is in the tank and fuel prices are high, you typically see a decline in miles driven and traffic deaths," said John Ulczycki, the council's executive director for transportation safety.

States also cite other factors such as police stepping up their pursuit of speeders and drunken drivers, as well as better teen-licensing programs, safer vehicles and winter weather that kept many drivers at home. The Governors Highway Safety Association also says seat belt use is probably at record levels and will top 90 percent in several states when figures are released later this year.

But the last time road deaths fell this fast and this sharply was during the

Engine problems prompt unscheduled outages

Mechanical and electrical problems with two of Power Plant 1's large engines prompted the expansion of the load shedding schedule on July 22 and July 23 to include other previous unscheduled areas of the grid.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. cited equipment failures, mainly with a faulty fuel injector and exhaust valve, as the reason for the July 22 outage. Repairs were expected to be completed yesterday evening, the agency said in a statement.

Also yesterday at 9am, Engine No. 6 was manually tripped as a result of

mechanical problems on the cylinder head, CUC said. The repair of the unit was immediately initiated by the plant staff and was completed at 11:55am.

A mechanically-challenged cylinder head was blamed for the 9am outage yesterday. Repairs were immediately made by plant staff and power was restored in less than three hours.

Power Plant IV's Unit 10 was back online last night after a lube oil leakage from the crankcase compartment and a defective power pack were resolved, CUC said. *(Caroline Lochabay)*

Arab oil embargo in 1973-1974, when fatalities tumbled 17 percent, from about 55,100 to 46,000; and as states raised the drinking age to 21 in 1982-83, when fatalities fell 11 percent, from roughly 49,300 to 44,000.

Chuck Hurley, a former official with the National Safety Council and the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, said half of the decline in road deaths during the 1970s was attributed to high gas prices. The remainder was linked to the lowering of freeway speed limits to 55 mph.

Republican Sen. John Warner of Virginia has said Congress might want to consider reimposing a national speed limit.

Hurley, now chief executive of

Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said gas prices have helped curb drunken driving, too.

Even considering new safety measures by states, it is now clear that, just like in the early 1970s, motorists are cutting discretionary travel and reducing the kind of late-night outings for alcohol that often lead to deadly accidents, Hurley said.

"People are going home early or stopping by a store and buying a case of beer and taking it home," said Maj. Daniel Lonsdorf of the Wisconsin State Patrol.

Peg Withrow, 48, of Columbus, said she does more walking and has canceled or delayed trips, including a planned visit to see her parents in South Carolina.

SEARCH

From Page 1

sions and search units scoured more than 7,000 square miles—an area 35 times the size of the island of Guam.

"It's extremely difficult to suspend this search," said Capt. Thomas Sparks, the senior Coast Guard officer in Guam and the commanding officer of the Coast Guard's Sector Guam.

"We had excellent search conditions for the past three days, excellent support from our Department of Defense and Guam Territorial Government partners. Our hearts go out to the families of the victims and the entire Coast Guard grieves for their loss."

Two bodies from the six-member crew were found after the crash Monday morning. An earlier U.S. Coast

Guard report said three bodies were recovered, but spokesman Lt. John Titchen later said that was an error. No names of the plane's crew had been released.

"We've seen fuel in the water, oil slicks, some pieces of what look like a plane. This is right within the area where we had planned our searches," Titchen said.

An extensive military and civilian search scoured vast expanses of ocean on Tuesday for any sign of the remaining crew members, said the 36th Wing Commander, Brig. Gen. Douglas Owens.

"We recognize, however, that the longer this search continues the less likelihood there is that we'll find survivors," Owens said a day after the crash 30 miles northwest of Guam's Apra Harbor.

Three vessels including a destroyer,

three helicopters, two F-15 fighter jets and a Navy P-3 Orion aircraft based in Japan were involved in the search, Titchen said.

The Air Force will investigate the accident. The two crew members were wearing their life vests when their bodies were recovered.

"This is a challenging operation when we lose people we work with on a day-to-day basis, so we're doing the best that we can to cover that area as quickly as we can," Titchen said.

The Air Force reported the B-52 carried almost 19,000 gallons of JP-8 jet fuel, but NOAA, at the Coast Guard's request, determined all or most of the fuel probably burned off yesterday and there is no sign of a pollution threat.

The unarmed Air Force bomber had been making a swing around the island from U.S. Andersen Air Force Base for

a celebratory fly-over of another part of the island as part of Guam Liberation Day celebrations. The holiday marks the arrival of the U.S. military to retake the island from Japan in 1944.

The accident is the second for the Air Force this year on Guam, a U.S. territory 3,700 miles southwest of Hawaii.

In February, a B-2 crashed at Andersen shortly after takeoff in the first-ever crash of a stealth bomber. Both pilots ejected safely. The military estimated the cost of the loss of the aircraft at US\$1.4 billion.

The plane that crashed Monday was based at Barksdale Air Force Base in Louisiana and deployed to Guam as part of the Department of Defense's continuous bomber presence mission in the Pacific. The Air Force has been rotating B-1, B-2 and B-52 bombers through Guam since 2004 to boost the U.S. secu-

rity presence in the Asia-Pacific region while other U.S. forces in the area have been sent to the Middle East.

Master Sgt. Cindy Dorfner, a spokeswoman for the Air Combat Command in Langley Air Force Base, Va., said the last crash involving a B-52 was on June 24, 1994, in Spokane, Wash. The bomber was practicing touch-and-go landings before an air show at Fairchild Air Force Base when it plunged to the ground and exploded, killing all four on board.

The Air Force has 93 B-52 bombers remaining in its fleet.

The B-52 is a long-range, heavy bomber that can refuel in midair. Since the 159-foot-long bomber was first placed into service in 1955, it has been used for a wide range of missions from attacks to ocean surveillance. *(U.S. Coast Guard/Associated Press)*

ALCOHOL

From Page 1

local economy.

Commerce disclosed in a statement Wednesday that 149 vendors previously granted alcohol sales licenses missed the June 30 deadline for renewing them. Among those, 79 appear to have closed for business; 532 licensees submitted their renewal applications on time.

In an interview last month, Com-

merce Secretary James Santos noted the decline in license renewals, saying it reflects the current "weakness in the economy." Commerce Deputy Secretary Michael Ada said the drop signals a potential enforcement issue for Commerce's alcohol licensing regulators.

"It raises a red flag for us because, as not that many businesses are coming back to renew, there's this question of how many are selling alcohol on an expired license," Ada said, adding that Commerce is consequently poised to "beef up" its inspec-

tions of alcohol vendors.

"There are some establishments that we're really eyeing," he said. "The community has really been good about giving us information."

By law, any establishment that fails to renew its license to sell alcohol faces an automatic one-month license suspension of it, according to Commerce's statement. However, those establishments can win a renewal of their licenses this month, which would become effective in August. Regula-

tors are now conducting inspections of the establishments that failed to renew their licenses and are serving them with suspension notices.

Whether the decline seen in alcohol licensing will extend to stores that sell tobacco products remains to be seen. Currently, 141 tobacco sales licenses issued in 2007 are up for their renewal, which is done on a rolling basis starting from when Commerce issued the license, according to the statement.

Meanwhile, Commerce noted that

many businesses are appealing to the government for relief from the required suspension of their licenses they will face after failing to renew them, saying most would prefer instead to pay a fee.

The license suspension "is definitely a losing situation for both the businesses and the government, considering our present economic condition," the statement says, adding that Commerce's alcohol regulators have submitted a proposal to the Legislature to address the issue.

CUC

From Page 1

interested in running the main power plant on Saipan and selling energy back to the utility for distribution to the community.

Muna recently told the lawmakers that CUC plans to get the "request for proposals" within the next six months.

Muna, in a memorandum to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, said the independent power producer may consider taking over operations and rehabilitation of

Power Plant. If it chooses to do so, the IPP will bear all capital costs for the continued repair or purchase of new generators and related infrastructure.

He added that if CUC is required to provide fuel and lube oil, energy efficiency will be a major factor in the selection process. "The offeror proposing the lowest purchase price per kWh will be awarded the contract, conditional to energy efficiency and minimum buy," he said.

Muna also said that CUC had not determined the minimum generation capacity to be required of the IPP, nor the contract

period for the proposed IPP. To determine these, CUC must consider its current contract with Pacific Marine Industrial Inc., which runs Power Plant 4, as well as other issues including the possible commercial production of alternative energy in the future and net metering.

Several attempts have been made to privatize CUC's power division, but they failed for different reasons. The last privatization effort was canceled in July 2007. The Office of the Public Auditor, which ordered the cancellation, ruled that the procurement process was unfair and lacked transparency. OPA

also said the exorbitant fees charged by CUC discouraged competition.

The Legislature is currently considering a measure requiring CUC to issue a privatization bid within 45 days of the bill's enactment.

Under the House-approved bill, CUC will be able to sell the power system for at least \$250 million, half the minimum value proposed in the original version of the bill. The bill calls for a bid process, a departure from the request-for-proposals procedure CUC had used in its previous privatization efforts.

The bill would also restore the CUC

board of directors.

Rep. Victor Hocog, one of the bill's proponents, said it is necessary to fast-track the privatization of CUC, as the utility is depleting government resources while failing to offer reliable and affordable service.

"[The] Commonwealth ratepayers deserve a utility that delivers high quality power on a 24/7 basis at reasonable prices, whose operations are open and transparent, whose books are balanced, whose audits are clean, and whose operations are reviewed by an independent regulator," the bill states.

Management deal may prompt renovations at Palms Resort

By STEFAN SEBASTIAN
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BUSINESS EDITOR

The Palms Resort could soon see a series of new renovations ahead of a prospective deal with an unnamed international hotel company to manage the hotel on behalf of its current owners.

In an interview Wednesday, president and chief executive officer Hiroyuki Saito said the ongoing talks have lead the United Micronesia Development Association, which owns the hotel, to compile a list of renovations the company's future partner would require in order to sign an agreement to manage and promote it. Saito stopped short of identifying whether the talks are with Hilton, Marriott or another major hotel chain.

"All hoteliers have their own standards that they require for a hotel before they will put their flags on them," Saito said, adding that planners are now working to "create a complete list of the renovations we will have to comply with."

Palms Resort's new partner, whoever it might be, will manage the hotel under the agreement but UMDA, Saito said, will retain control of it.

The management deal, Saito added, will have a host of benefits for UMDA. Chief among them is the chance to promote Palms Resort through its new partner's international marketing. UMDA is hopeful, Saito said, that the added promotions will boost the number of visitors the hotel gets.

The pending deal comes as many hotels in the Commonwealth are beginning to see slight jumps in room sales linked to the slow revival of the local tourism market after a steep slump last year.

Statistics released earlier this month by the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands show that the group's member hotels sold an estimated 2,500 more rooms in June this year than in June 2007. Moreover, the average price of hotel rooms rose \$10 since last year, a change due to recent renovations, according to HANMI chair Lynn Knight.

A key factor in the boost hotels are seeing, Knight said, is the resumption of flights from Asian tourism markets like Japan and Korea. New nighttime airline service to Saipan from Tokyo, she added, will also likely bolster the hotel industry.

Workers group wants to meet delegate bets

By AGNES E. DONATO
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REPORTER

A group of foreign workers is organizing an election forum to learn where the candidates for congressional delegate stand on issues concerning guest workers in the Commonwealth.

The Coalition of United Workers has scheduled the forum tentatively for Aug. 16, 2008, 5:30pm, at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

Irene Tantiado, president of the coalition, said the purpose of the forum is to educate guest workers about the candidates' positions on issues relating to foreign labor and immigration.

At the forum, the candidates will be given an opportunity to

outline their "platform" for the guest workers. They are expected to answer questions from the guest workers afterwards.

Tantiado said the coalition is looking to endorse a candidate "who may not necessarily be in support of improved immigration status for the guest workers, but who is at least sympathetic to our concerns."

"Wemay not be able to vote, but there are things we can do to impact the campaign. We could volunteer our time and services to help our candidate," she said.



Sablan



Gonzales

At least two of the candidates have expressed willingness to attend the forum.

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Gregorio "Kilili" Sablan said he will come to the forum if invited. "The guest workers are a part of

our community. I will definitely talk to them," said Sablan.

Local television talk show

host John Oliver Gonzales also said he is open to meeting with the foreign workers, but expressed concern about a possible schedule conflict. He

is leaving on Aug. 6 for Las Vegas, where CNMI residents living in the U.S. mainland will convene for the annual Labor Day softball tournament. Gonzales sees the event as an opportunity to woo the off-island voters.

Yet, Gonzales said he is willing to attend the forum. "I'm challenging each one of my opponents to as many forums and debates as possible. The people deserve to know where we stand on issues," he said.

The other candidates vying to be the Northern Marianas' first-ever delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives are Resident Rep. Pete A. Tenorio, retired Judge Juan T. Lizama, former Sen. David Cing, and Sen. Luis Crisostimo.

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- A. Hotel
- B. Restaurant
- C. Museum
- D. All of the above
- E. None of the above

For more contact the PAIMI program at NMPASI
235-7273 or 235-7278 for TTY or
online at www.nmpasi.com

Find your answers here on July 26, 2008

This ad paid for in full by the Protection & Advocacy for Individuals with Mental Illness (PAIMI) program through funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Mental Health Services (CMHS). The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of SAMHSA/CMHS. Total cost: \$500 Total circulation: 18,000

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MPLT lukewarm to OPA offer of building

The Marianas Public Land Trust, which is planning to construct a new office building on private land, appears lukewarm to an offer of a free and unlimited use of a government property as headquarters for its operations.

MPLT chair Alvaro Santos met with now-former Public Auditor Michael Sablan on Tuesday to discuss the Office of the Public Auditor's proposal for MPLT to use a recently vacated OPA building, instead of buying land and constructing a new building.

According to Sablan, Santos during the meeting raised a concern about the process of assigning government

buildings for long-term use. Sablan said that Santos wanted assurance that the agency would be able to own the property, since MPLT "might be investing some money" in renovating it.

Santos confirmed that concern in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*, citing "an unanswered question as to which entity has the ultimate authority to assign and or transfer government buildings for unlimited use."

The meeting ended with OPA being tasked to consult with the Office of Personnel Management and Department of Public Lands on the matter.

Sablan, who stepped down from office on Tuesday, said

that OPA's offer still stands. "We are willing to transfer the property at no cost to MPLT. I believe that the risk of their losing their investment is minor, compared to the cost of purchasing property and undertaking construction. The OPA building we're offering is

not luxurious, but it's quite decent. Our main interest in this is the amount of public funds that can be saved," he said.

MPLT's plan has sparked public controversy because of its tentative cost of approximately \$700,000 and its proposed location on private land.

Six allegedly gang up on worker at cockpit

Six persons, including a woman, allegedly ganged up on a maintenance worker inside the Saipan cockpit in Garapan Sunday night.

The 32-year-old maintenance worker sustained a swollen left jaw and abrasions and contusions to the knees, neck, and

chest. As of yesterday, he was still complaining of chest pain.

It was the worker's employer who brought him that night to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

Saipan Tribune learned that two of the attackers were identified as Daniel and Jimbo, both

Sablan added that, while Santos' concern is reasonable, but not insurmountable. He noted that many other agencies have been able to operate from government buildings for many years, or in some cases, for decades. "Security of ownership has not been a real issue for

those agencies," he said.

The OPA building being offered to MPLT is located on Yap drive, just east of OPA's administrative building and near MPLT's current location at the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund building. (*Agnes E. Donato*)

alleged known troublemakers who were banned by the cockpit's previous administration from entering the arena.

The victim said he won \$30 from betting with one of the suspects. When he tried to collect the money, one of the suspects denied betting with him.

When he insisted, the suspect cussed the victim before handing over the money. As soon as the victim took the money, the suspect suddenly punched him twice, causing him to fall.

The suspect's at least five other companions, including a woman, joined in punching, slapping, kicking, and choking the victim.

Some people stopped the fight. When police officers arrived, the six suspects hurriedly left the cockpit.

Police failed to arrest anyone. The victim called his employer, prompting the latter to come and bring him to the hospital.

The victim said many people



FERDIE DE LA TORRE

A maintenance worker shows the bruises on his legs as a result of the beating he got from six persons at the Saipan cockpit in Garapan Sunday night.

in the cockpit told him the suspects are known troublemakers in the cockpit.

The one who first assaulted the victim allegedly also attacked another worker lately inside the cockpit's restroom. This person—either Daniel or Jimbo—would allegedly use intimidation as his modus operandi whenever he loses a bet. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST BOARD OF TRUSTEES

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, The Open Government Act of 1992, the Marianas Public Land Trust have scheduled a Board of Trustees Special Meeting for **Friday, July 25, 2008 beginning at 6:00 PM on the 1st Floor of the Morgen Building, Suite #107, San Jose; Saipan, MP.**

The following agenda is hereby established:

- I PRELIMINARIES**
 - Call to Order
 - Roll Call
 - Adoption of Agenda
- II OLD BUSINESS**
 - CUC Matters
- III EXECUTIVE SESSION**
At anytime during this scheduled meeting, the Board of Trustees may be required to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters deemed privileged and confidential.
- IV MISCELLANEOUS**
- V ADJOURNMENT**

* It is anticipated that the following matters will be discussed under Executive Session in its entirety.

In accordance with Public Law 8-41, additional agenda items may be added to the above listing only by the recorded vote of the majority of the trustee governing body.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written and oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Alvaro A. Santos
Chairman, Board of Trustees

New system for transfer causes crowding at Labor

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Employers and alien workers seeking for transfer relief crowded the Department of Labor's Hearing Office yesterday morning.

Many workers, employers and employers' agents patiently waited for three hours just to pick up either an administrative order allowing the immediate filing of the application to transfer or a notice of objection from some divisions at Labor.

The long line happened because people wrongly thought that they could only pick up the documents in the morning. In fact, they could also do so in the afternoon.

At 2pm yesterday, there was no more people trying to pick up documents, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Labor administrative hearing officer Jerry Cody told *Saipan Tribune* that the long lines occur every Wednesday since they developed a system in response to the Public Law 15-108, the new labor reform law.

"The new law states that the hearing office will be involved in every transfer. The objection system is an interesting system which is catching problems early," Cody said.

To avoid the long lines, the hearing officer advised people that they have all afternoon to pick up the documents because the hearing office tends to be busier in the morning.

Under the system, Cody said, people register with the Labor Employment Services and then they're given a date to come back on Wednesday to receive the documents.

With respect to the notice, he said workers usually are given

14 days or two weeks from the Wednesday that they're getting the notice.

Besides distributing the administrative transfer orders and notices of objection, the office also holds hearings every Wednesday on the objections that were served two weeks ago.

"For example, this morning we had eight hearings; this afternoon at 1pm there's 10 hearings, so [there were] 18 hearings today," Cody said.

On the objection issue, Cody explained that if an employer has not registered with Employment Services, they'll get an objection from Employment Services.

He said there are between 15 to 20 objection hearings that take place every Wednesday.

"What's really important is the employer is actually advised that they can come in and resolve the objections. They don't have to wait for the hearings. They can come in, they can request for a meeting with the director," Cody said.

For instance, he said, when the Labor director wants to see proof of solvency, they can meet with the director and give the director that information.

"If the director clears the objection and signs off on it, then the hearing office will immediately issue an order granting the petition even before the hearing date," he added.

At first, they used to tell people to show up at 3pm and they had a tremendous crowd showing up.

"We changed the notice to tell the people that they can show up 10am to 12pm or 1pm to 4pm. Particularly today, a lot of people today showed up at the same time, but they have actually six hours," he said.



Workers conduct transactions at the Department of Labor in Afetna Square Building in San Antonio yesterday. JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ

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NEWS BRIEFS

Tinian Peace Ceremony to mark 6th year

Preparations are now underway for the 6th annual Tinian Nagasaki Hiroshima Peace Ceremony that will be held Aug. 6, the anniversary of the 1945 American atomic bombing of Hiroshima, Japan by the *Enola Gay*, which took off from the island of Tinian.

Scheduled events for the ceremony include a Sounding of the Sirens at 9:15am at the Children's Peace Monument that will coincide with the moment of silence at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony in Japan (9:15 am is the local time the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima). A special multi-faith prayer for peace is also scheduled for the morning portion of the peace ceremony. An evening candlelight vigil featuring performances of peace songs and poetry by community members will be held at 7pm on the night of the ceremony. (PR)

Unscheduled power outage

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. said that on July 21 the previously promulgated load shedding schedule was expanded to include other areas of the grid not previously scheduled. This was due to mechanical problems one of the large engines at Power Plant 1.

At 4:26pm, engine no. 6 was manually tripped as a result of mechanical problems on the cylinder head lubricator motor. The repair of the unit was immediately initiated by the plant staff and was completed at 10:10pm that evening.

The CUC apologizes for any inconvenience as a result of this problem. (CUC)

Jury selection reset

This is to inform the public that the jury selection presently set for July 28, 2008 at 8:30am for Panel "BS" is vacated until further notice, according to a notice issued by Clerk of Court Bernadita A. Sablan. (PR)

Voter registration for '08 polls ongoing

Registration of eligible voters continues for the 2008 general election, according to the Commonwealth Election Commission. The last day for voter registration for the 2008 general election is Sept. 15, 2008.

Any person qualified to vote may register during government workdays from 7:30am to 4:30pm at the Commission's office at 1313, Anatahan Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

Eligible voters on Rota may register with Miranda V. Manglona or Josepha A. Barcinas. Tinian residents may register with Jose P. Kiyoshi or Mary B. Diaz. Residents of the islands north of Saipan may contact the Commission via e-mail or the government radios maintained at EMO.

Voter registration is also conducted from 9am to 3pm on Saturday at PriceCostco in Oleai, Saipan. The last day for the PriceCostco voter registration is Sept. 13, 2008.

Eligible voters outside the Commonwealth may go to www.votecnmi.gov.mp to download the required registration forms. Eligible voters who are homebound and require assistance registering to vote may contact the Commissioner for further information.

A person is eligible to vote who, on Nov. 4, 2008, is 18 years of age or older, is domiciled in the Commonwealth, has resided in the Commonwealth for 120 days prior to the day of the election, is not serving a sentence for a felony conviction, has not been declared by a court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States as defined in the NMI

Constitution.

Previously registered voters who have filed to vote in 2007 regular general election must re-register to be eligible to vote in 2008 general election.

Anyone requiring voter registration information may call the Commissioner's office at 664-VOTE (8683) or by sending electronic mail to cec@votecnmi.gov.mp or info@votecnmi.gov.mp. (PR)

Cook Islands enhances pandemic threat response

RAROTONGA, Cook Islands—A series of workshops on infection control and exercises to test avian and pandemic influenza preparedness will be run in Rarotonga from July 23 to Aug. 1, 2008. These initiatives aim to increase Cook Islands' readiness for avian and pandemic influenza

events and other threats of infectious diseases.

"The Pacific Islands, including the Cook Islands, are at risk of avian and pandemic influenza, like other parts of the world," said Dr. Roro Daniel, Secretary of Health, Cook Islands. "Considering the limited resources shared by most Pa-

cific Island countries and territories, it is critical that we test components of our pandemic preparedness plan and refine our capacity to effectively respond to these threats."

Dr. Seini Kupu, Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Specialist at the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, said, "Although avian influenza is principally a disease of poultry, the H5N1 strain of the avian influenza virus has been confirmed as infecting humans. And out of the total confirmed human cases, about 60 percent of them have died. It is possible that the H5N1 strain that is circulating around the world could become easily transmissible from one person to another, and if that occurs, there is a very high possibility of a global influenza pandemic.

"Some countries that are our very close neighbors, especially Indonesia, are already experiencing significant avian influenza outbreaks and have the highest human avian influenza infections case fatality rate of about 80 per cent, according to WHO [this means that for every 100 infected persons with H5N1, about 80 have died]. The disease could reach our shores.

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

July 24, 2000

Tinian to host another casino

A Japanese company is all set to establish a casino hotel on the island-municipality of Tinian after it paid the \$350,000 application and investigation fee to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission a week ago. Tokyo-based Kirino Consultants Inc. is also planning to set up a domestic and international airline firm to be based on Tinian to specifically service the firm's casino customers as well as the local market.

CPA opens dialog with Legislature, airlines

The Commonwealth Ports Authority has opened communication lines with the CNMI Legislature and airline companies servicing the Northern Marianas in fresh efforts to reduce existing rates at the Saipan International Airport, according to Executive Director Carlos H. Salas. Mr. Salas said CPA has the capability to reduce Saipan airport fees but only if the CNMI Legislature would earmark funds to finance and subsidize the operation of both West Tinian and Rota International Airports.

Ban reentry of deportees

In an effort to compel overstaying aliens in the CNMI to choose to voluntarily leave the islands, the Senate has passed legislation seeking to bar reentry for those deported by the Department of Labor and Immigration. SB 12-2 will amend existing deportation laws to punish aliens who, despite their expired entry permits or improper documents, opt to stay in the Commonwealth.

July 24, 2001

'Saipan Sucks' author known

The Internet smear campaign that maligned Saipan has left its residents and web surfers puzzled on who could the author be. As this developed, government authorities are now probing the identity of the culprit, responsible for the smear campaign entitled "Saipan Sucks: The Truth About Saipan" which appears on the Internet.

Tinian Shipping now charging \$15 for one-way ferry service

The Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino needs to raise an estimated annual revenue of \$6 million to continue the operation of ferry services between Saipan and Tinian. For the last two years, the 330-seat Tinian Express incurred more than \$6 million in total losses, Tinian Dynasty Hotel Operations Manager Tom Liu said.

Land crabs don't pose health risks

The Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry has determined that the level of PCB detected on Tanapag land crabs is too low to cause health problems. Although the elevated levels of PCB do not appear to be a health hazard, the agency underscored that people can be exposed to small amounts of the toxic substance from eating land crabs.

July 24, 2002

Heinz vows to resign if...

As promised, House Speaker Heinz S. Hofschneider introduced during yesterday's session a bill that seeks to increase the user's fee to 5 percent, with the promise to resign from his post if he goes down in defeat on the proposal. At a motion from House Floor Leader Jesus T. Attao that was seconded by other lawmakers, the measure was immediately referred to the House Ways and Means Committee, with Hofschneider instructing committee chairman, Rep. Stanley S. Torres, to conduct a public hearing and then come out with recommendations by Friday next week.

New gear boosts local firefighting

The Department of Public Safety-Fire Division's share in a \$90-million federal grant approved by President Bush last year has allowed the local agency to acquire 87 sets of new turn-out gear to better protect its firefighters. The competitive grant offered under the Federal Emergency Management Agency permitted the CNMI to purchase some \$145,000-worth of firefighting equipment made from the latest material, which local firefighters have described as "more comfortable."



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
State Board of Education

Public School System

P. O. Box 501370, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Eleventh CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Friday, July 25, 2008 at 11:00 a.m. at the TAGA Room, Aqua Resort Club, Achugao, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes
 - i. January 16, 2008 Minutes
- II. Public Comments¹
- III. Reports
 - a. Chair
 - b. Board Committees
 - i. CIA
 - ii. CIP
 - iii. FPA
 - iv. Special Education & Early Childhood
 - v. LIA
 - vi. School Reform
 - vii. Private Schools
 - c. Acting Commissioner of Education
 - d. Non-Public School Representative
- IV. Old Business
 - a. Contract, selection procedures and instruments for COE position
- V. New Business
 - a. Head Start FY 2008-09 Grant (Supplemental Application to Match Annual Allocation)
 - b. Nutrition Assistance Program [NAP] FY '09 Grant Application
 - c. High School Intramural & Interscholastic Sport Program Proposal
 - d. Amex Global Card Report
 - e. BOE Professional Development Proposal
 - f. APEC project proposal for SSHS
 - g. Revision of BOE Regulations 3430(g)(1) to extend the period for filing of vouchers to 30 days.
 - h. SB 16-36, SD2 [re: proportionate pension payment]
 - i. SB 16-14 [Service Learning Act]
 - j. Setting of Interview schedule for COE applicants
 - k. Request for recusal of BOE member in evaluation of COE applicants
 - l. NIMAS Requirements for States Policy
- VI. Executive Session
 - a. Legal Updates
 - b. Personnel
 - i. Contract, selection procedures and instruments for COE position
 - ii. Review of Applications for COE position
 - iii. RHS Personnel Matters
 - c. Other matters
 - i. AB Letter of Complaint against BOE member
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters
 - a. Trip Reports
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting
- IX. Adjournment

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

DANILO T. AGUILAR, F0198

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San Jose, Saipan, MP 96950
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Attorney for Plaintiff
WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN, INC.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL SAIPAN INC.,	CIVIL CASE
Plaintiff,	NO. 08-0154
v.	
JOAN M. SABLAN,	SUMMONS BY
Defendant.	PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANT: JOAN M. SABLAN
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within thirty (30) days after the service of the Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the Law Offices of Danilo T. Aguilar, whose address is P.O. Box 505301, First Floor San Jose Court Bldg., Cor. Ghiyeghi St. & Wischira Way, San Jose, Saipan MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Guma Hustisia, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment of default may be taken against you for the relief in the complaint.

By order of this Court.

/s/ Clerk of Courts
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Islands

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Lynn A. Knight PUBLISHER
Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

V-Day all around

The combined forces of domestic political pressure in the United States and an increasingly confident government in Iraq are creating a rare opportunity in our protracted conquest of that country -- the chance for consensus. It is time for hard-liners on all sides of the issue to back down and agree on a responsible, orderly withdrawal of U.S. forces, to begin forthwith.

That sensible approach won favor last week in camps rarely allied with one another. Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama signaled his willingness to break with critics of the war who demand immediate withdrawal and instead proposed a deliberate draw-down, though still in line with his long-held goal of bringing the troops home within 16 months of taking office. In Iraq, meanwhile, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki indicated that he too wants U.S. troops out; on Monday, a government spokesman cited a 2010 deadline. The Bush administration, which has resisted specific timetables, reportedly put pressure on al-Maliki not to endorse Obama's plan. Yet the administration appears for the first time to be prepared to contemplate an end to the U.S. military presence in Iraq. (President Bush still avers the term "timetable," opting for "time horizon." Fine.) Even GOP candidate John McCain, once content to imagine Americans in Iraq for the next 100 years, welcomed the announcement, though he continued to stake out the inarguable position that no timetable should turn on politics.

In short, despite their different emphases, the leaders of both countries and the leading candidates to succeed Bush now jointly accept the notion of a phased withdrawal under at least a vague timetable. That is what passes for a breakthrough in this long war.

It matters little how we got here. Supporters of the war cite progress on the ground as creating the opportunity to leave; critics argue that it's an overdue concession to the reality that U.S. troops are now desperately needed to fight the resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan. Military leaders can take pride in their surge strategy, as can Bush, who approved it, and McCain, who supported it. Al-Maliki can stand before his people as a ruler in his own right, not an American puppet. And Obama, who opposed the war from the outset, can deliver on his promise, if elected, to promptly bring Americans home.

The political solutions that work are often those for which many can claim credit. Let us allow all the players to proclaim victory, and by doing so clear the way for the United States to end its occupation of Iraq. Let us focus on stanching the bleeding -- literal and figurative, military and diplomatic, domestic and geopolitical -- that this conflict has caused.

(c) 2008, Los Angeles Times



The answer's in the wind—and sun

By JAMES TISCH
SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

Bob Dylan said it best: "The answer is blowin' in the wind." While politicians and environmentalists have been busy arguing about how best to require that greenhouse gases be curtailed, the world around them has changed. The precipitous rise in oil and gas prices over the past year has made the debate on greenhouse gas emissions moot. The reduction in the output of those gases will move forward at warp speed, not because of rules, regulations and cap-and-trade decrees but because of free markets and economics.

Two factors are driving this sea change. First, the price of our traditional fuels—oil, gas and coal—has risen dramatically. Second, the silent and inexorable march of technology has dramatically reduced the costs of clean alternative energy sources such as wind turbines and photovoltaics, which converts sunlight into electricity. The result will be a dramatic reduction in the emission of greenhouse gases—without politicians passing a single additional piece of legislation.

How have we come to this point? Blame it on oil prices and technology. The extraordinary increase in the price of hydrocarbons and coal has created a price umbrella under which competing technologies can flourish. Already, clean wind energy is increasing by leaps and bounds. In the past five years, more than 5 gigawatts of wind turbine capacity has been built in Texas alone; on days when the winds whistle along the plains, wind energy represents just under 10 percent of the electrical supply in the Lone Star State.

Today, wind energy is economic at about 7 cents per kilowatt hour, and that is without factoring in production tax credits. A few years ago, that cost was 15 to 20 cents. Compare the 7 cents for wind energy with the 12 cents per kilowatt hour required to build a gas-fired power plant, and you can see why there is a veritable land rush to harness wind energy.

Texas is not the only state where the gravitational pull of economics and markets is working. Across the country, the price of electricity has skyrocketed for homeowners and businesses. This steep increase is creating a wide opening for technologies such as photovoltaics. The cost of this technology has fallen over the past few decades and is about ready for prime time. That retail electricity prices are increasing by as much as 30 percent this year will only accelerate the arrival of the "liftoff" phase of photovoltaics. Also, retail electricity prices in New York may soon be headed to 30 cents per kilowatt hour. At those prices, an investment in a photovoltaic array on the rooftop of a house will pay for itself in fewer than 10

years, resulting in a greater than 10 percent return on one's capital cost. Compared to the sub-5 percent yield on municipal bonds, this return represents an extraordinary investment.

So, without a gavel coming down in a single additional legislative session, wind and the sun will become much bigger contributors to our national electricity mix. And an added benefit is that they generate absolutely no greenhouse gases.

One more fast-approaching major change will all but guarantee that curtailment of greenhouse gases becomes an issue of the past: the advent of the electric car. Improvements in battery technology mean that in the next five to 10 years, plug-in hybrid electric vehicles will finally be on our roads. Within the next two to three decades, the gasoline-fired internal combustion engine automobile will no longer be sold. Since gasoline accounts for more than a third of worldwide oil demand, the rise of plug-in hybrids represents a mega-change in terms of emissions.

Plug-in hybrids are dramatically cheaper to operate than today's cars. They will consume about 2 cents' worth of electricity to travel one mile, compared with the current 20- to 25-cent cost of driving a mile using gasoline. If consumers flock to them because of their lower operating costs, and they will, the resulting reduction in greenhouse gases will be a benefit of extraordinary proportion—one that the Kyoto crowd thought could be achieved only through draconian regulation.

These changes will take place not only in the United States but worldwide. These technologies will be adopted simply because they are cheaper than their hydrocarbon-burning cousins. The old world of burning hydrocarbons to generate energy and power automobiles is on the way out because it is being priced out of the market. In the next few decades, it is possible that the only thing oil products will be used for is to power airplanes, heavy vehicles and ships. All that is required on the part of those wanting to reduce greenhouse gases is a little patience so these new technologies can be adopted by the market.

So there is a silver lining in the run-up of hydrocarbon prices. These elevated costs are causing a dramatic change in our energy and automobile mix that will result in significantly less greenhouse gas emissions in the next few decades. The change is already on the way based on today's technology, and it will only quicken with the technological advances that are sure to come. Without a doubt, the answer is blowin' in the wind.

The writer is chief executive of Loews Corp., which has interests in Diamond Offshore drilling; Boardwalk Pipelines, an interstate natural gas pipeline company; and HighMount Exploration and Production, which drills for natural gas.

EDITORIAL POLICY

The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Phone-omenal

Think about the role of your telephone at work. On an average day, what percentage of your customers receive service over the phone? You probably haven't tracked it, but it wouldn't be unusual that 50 to 80 percent of your customers communicate with you over the phone.

What do they hear on the receiver when a representative of your organization picks up the call? Many organizations give little thought to what happens over the phone and the perception that customers have when they call. Very few employees are trained to properly answer the phone and it is sometimes the least paid and least experienced people that make that first impression for your organization.

To help you evaluate your phone protocol or the service you receive over the phone from a business you call, answer these seven questions with a score between 1 and 5: 1 = Never, 2 = Seldom, 3 = Sometimes, 4 = Often, and 5 = Always. How often do you...

1. Answer the phone within two rings so you don't keep the caller waiting?
2. Answer the phone by identifying your organization, giving your name, and asking how you may assist the caller?
3. Smile as you talk on the phone so you come across as friendly?
4. Speak clearly, distinctly, and in a conversational tone?
5. Not put someone on hold for more than a few seconds and thank them for holding?
6. Ask how you can help or take a message from the caller, if the person requested is not available?
7. End the conversation by summarizing what was discussed and

thanking the person for calling?

8. Return calls promptly if you were unavailable when someone called and left a message?

How did you score? How do the people you deal with on the phone score? Let's look at each point and examine how you can improve your phone skills.

A caller will mentally start to measure the quality of an organization before someone starts talking to them by the number of rings it takes to get an answer. After two rings or less, you convey efficiency and a willingness to serve your customers. Taking longer to answer the phone gives callers the feeling that their call is an intrusion or that you're unavailable.

The way you answer the phone is the next determinant that reveals your level of professionalism. Some organizations have a specific greeting they train employees to use, but as a minimum you should state these three things: the name of your organization so people know they called the correct number, your name so they know whom they are talking to, and then offer your assistance.

Try to picture the person you're talking to on the other end of the phone and smile as you talk. Physically smiling can be heard through the phone line via your tone. Make people feel like you enjoy talking to them.

It is especially important that you use proper articulation and enunciation when talking on the phone because even with fiber optic cable, telephones distort the tones that give your voice personality. Also, there are no nonverbal cues that can assist a caller to understand what's being said.

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS

Special to the Tribune



Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC (www.bizresults.org). They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

It's been our experience that very few people ask if they can help or take a message if the person we asked for is not available. Keep a notepad (office supply stores have preprinted ones) and pen close by to record a message, and read the message back to the caller to be sure it is accurate. Promptly give the message to the recipient, along with your name in case there are any questions.

If you find a message on your desk from a caller who missed you, make sure to call back promptly. This also demonstrates your professionalism and shows that their call is important to you.

"Thank you" is one of the most powerful phrases in human relations. Some companies even use it in their greeting. It reassures your customers that you are interested in serving them and their calls are not an inconvenience.

Occasionally call your own organization and rate their phone manners using the criteria above or one that you have developed. This is an easy way to determine if they are phone-challenged or they are phone-omenal.

My classroom in Doha

By RYAN J. MAHER

SPECIAL TO THE WASHINGTON POST

The class I was teaching was called "The Problem of God," but I was facing a more immediate problem. Would I, one of my students had asked a classmate, be going to hell?

The class held its breath; I pretended to focus on erasing the board. After what felt like an eternity, the other student replied, "Yes." And then, "Sorry, Father."

Not quite what I was hoping to hear. But her answer—and my experience with a class of mostly Arab Muslim students in Doha, Qatar—revealed more than I ever imagined about teaching faith in a world where religious fervor fuels many of the fires our diplomatic corps struggles to put out.

In the spring of 2005, I was asked to move from Washington, D.C., to Doha for two years with a group of Georgetown faculty members opening a branch campus of our School of Foreign Service at the invitation of the Qatari royal family. I was the first Jesuit priest ever assigned to that tiny Persian Gulf emirate, a distinction that my Irish friends cheerfully assured me would be worth a line in my obituary.

Without a moment's hesitation, I went. The majority of my students in Qatar came from across the Middle East, from varied social and economic backgrounds. They arrived at Georgetown's campus in Qatar in search of an education that would prepare them for jobs in international affairs. Many will become professional diplomats. My job was simple: lead them through Georgetown's traditional freshman theology course.

That was not an easy course to teach. I imagine it was not an easy course to take, either. We were all aware that we were engaging in something novel, a college class of mostly Sunni and Shiite Muslims exploring with one another and with their Catholic priest professor some of the basic theological issues: the existence of God, free will, sin, prayer and Judgment Day.

One day early in the semester, in the middle of a discussion on the

definition of revelation, one of my students, a Muslim from Bosnia, heaved a deep sigh and blurted out, "I hope we don't get blown up for talking about this stuff." I was writing on the blackboard, with my back to the class. I laughed. When I turned around, I saw that he wasn't joking.

During my two years in Qatar, I learned that many of my students approached discussions of faith and religion with an intensity and passion that differed in kind, not just in degree, from what I had grown accustomed to in the United States. There were many in Qatar for whom religion was more profound: the outward manifestation of an inner relationship with the divine.

I had spent years discussing religious matters with American students in excellent schools before I was sent to the Middle East. I had found those conversations enjoyable, often challenging and sincere. But something was often missing. An Egyptian Muslim friend I met in Qatar helped me understand what that was. Talking with Americans about faith and religion, he told me, is like having coffee with Forrest Gump: pleasant enough, but not of much substance. "They just don't have much to say because they just don't get it," he said.

"They just don't get it" is never something a teacher wants to hear.

One day early in the semester, in the middle of a discussion on the definition of revelation, one of my students, a Muslim from Bosnia, heaved a deep sigh and blurted out, 'I hope we don't get blown up for talking about this stuff.' I was writing on the blackboard, with my back to the class.

I laughed. When I turned around, I saw that he wasn't joking.

That's especially true when I think about our mission at Georgetown, where we educate many students who will become foreign service officers for the United States and other countries. One of the more important and pragmatic qualities I hope our students carry with them into those careers is a felt-in-the-bone understanding of what it is to live one's life committed to one's faith.

Most professors I know nod vigorously when I suggest to them that an understanding of faith is essential for future diplomats. "Of course, of course," they say. "If we don't know about Islam, we will never be able to help untangle the mess in the Middle East." I usually don't have the heart to tell them that they have missed my point entirely.

The majority of Georgetown students I know are knowledgeable about religion. They can talk intelligently about Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Hinduism and Buddhism. The glitch is that they talk from the perspective of anthropologists and sociologists and historians. These are valuable perspectives. But they are not enough. We also need young people who understand what it is to live one's life root-

ed in faith.

That's a tall order for American higher education. A few years ago, I had a conversation with a diplomat who had participated in difficult negotiations all over the world. It was the fall of 2004, and our conversation turned to the presidential campaign. My friend argued that Sen. John F. Kerry's reluctance to talk about his own faith was a good thing, showing that the candidate understood that faith has no place in politics or public policy.

Out of the blue, a question occurred to me: "Other than me, do you have any friends or professional colleagues of any religion who attend services every week?" He was quiet for a long, thoughtful minute. "Not that I know of," he replied.

I have thought about that conversation for a long time. It has helped me understand what hobbles American higher education when it comes to educating people for careers in international affairs. It's not that we don't know about religion; it's that we don't understand faith and its life-shaping power.

The majority of people I know in higher education would argue that there is nothing wrong with religion for people who feel they need it. Their sentiments come down to something like this: "You have your religious convictions, I have mine. Let's acknowledge our differences and agree to disagree with one another within the confines of polite debate." That makes sense, of course, but it is not enough to prepare a new generation of diplomats who will be asked to engage the Muslim world in the decades to come.

This template for discussing religion and faith is fundamentally flawed. It presumes that different groups of faithful people approach their religions in the same way football fans approach their favorite teams: I cheer passionately for mine, you cheer passionately for yours, and we all agree to play by the rules and exhibit good sportsmanship. For people of faith, religion isn't like that. A person of Muslim faith and a person of Christian faith engaged in conversation about religion are not like two fans pulling for their teams. They are more like two men in love with the same woman, each trying to express, safeguard and be faithful to his relationship with his beloved. Love brings with it complexities that football does not.

Recently, I had a conversation with a young woman who is about to begin her sophomore year at Georgetown. She has a passion for art history and American democracy and is serious about her Jewish faith. She hopes to work in international affairs one day. We were discussing the courses she might take this fall.

She reported that people had been telling her she should take more economics. "What if instead of that," she said, "I took only four courses this semester and used the extra time to go with my Christian and Muslim friends to their churches and mosques? I just think that if I had a better sense of how they prayed and what they mean when they use the word 'God,' I'd be able to have much better conversations with them about the situation in the Middle East."

What do you say to that, except "Amen"? And, "Have you thought of taking the foreign service exam after you graduate?"

Letter to the Editor

Gasoline price hikes

Since the price per barrel of crude oil has declined by 12 percent, shouldn't we experience a 12 percent decline in the price per gallon at the pump as well?

$\$5.05 \times 12 \text{ percent} = \0.61

$\$5.05 - \$0.61 = \$4.44$

The price of gasoline on Saipan should have gone down to \$4.44 per gallon. Looks like gas companies are quick to respond to the increase in the price of a barrel, but slow to react to the decrease. They need to learn a business ethics lesson.






Jesse Torres
Kagman, Saipan

The Rev. Ryan J. Maher is an assistant dean at Georgetown University.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds around 10 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼78°	▲89° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼77
Palau	Cloudy	▲86 ▼77
Yap	Cloudy	▲87 ▼77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲88 ▼78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲87 ▼72
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲88 ▼77
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲86 ▼76

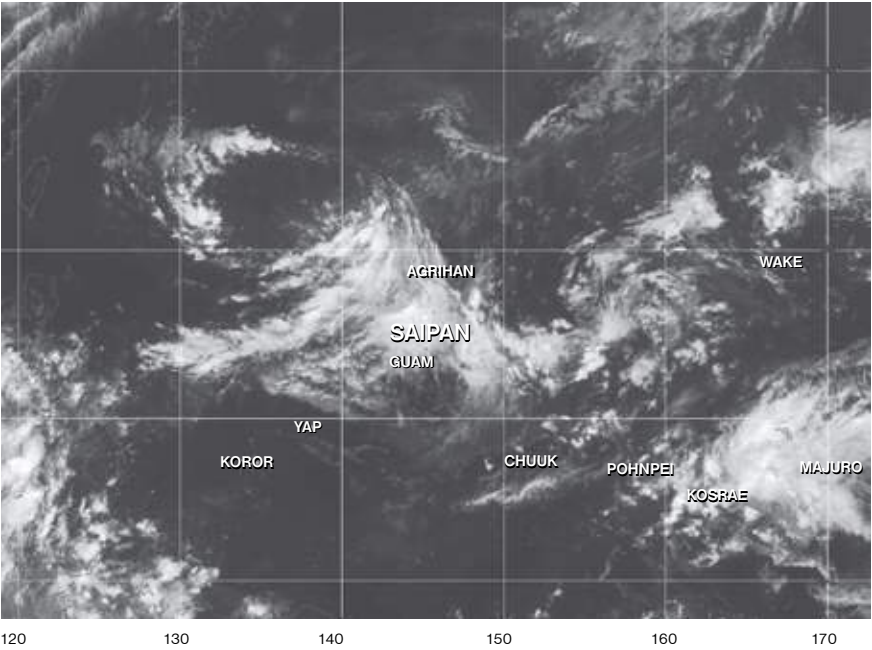
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲57 ▼44
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	▲95 ▼73
Hong Kong	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85 ▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲79 ▼63
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼66
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	▲90 ▼79
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲60 ▼47
Miami	Thundershowers	▲89 ▼78
New York	Thunderstorms	▲84 ▼70
Osaka	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼78
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼64
Pusan	Thunderstorms	▲85 ▼75
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲80 ▼62
Salem	Cloudy	▲85 ▼49
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲76 ▼56
Seoul	Rain	▲81 ▼73
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲90 ▼77
Washington, DC	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼68

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
6:02AM Today	Low Tide:	0.6 Feet
11:24AM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
5:35PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
11:58PM Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2008
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A low pressure system is centered southeast of Okinawa near 22N132E. Widely scattered showers are occurring along the western periphery of the low between 21N and 26N from 130E to 134E. A low to mid-level trough extends southwestward from 25N144E through the low pressure system to beyond 20N130E. Converging winds south the trough axis are producing a line of numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms west of the Marianas Islands within 100 miles of a line from 20N142E to 13N130E. An upper level low centered northeast of the Marianas at 17N155E. Widely scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are forming south and east of a surface trough which arcs from 23N162E through 13N157E to just east of the Marianas at 16N148E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing numerous scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Kosrae to just west of Kwajalein encompassing an area from 10N to 3N between 158E and 170E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:57AM	6:50 PM
Friday	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Saturday	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Sunday	5:58AM	6:49 PM
Monday	5:58AM	6:48 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	10:09PM	9:51AM
Friday	11:30PM	11:38AM
Saturday		12:36AM
Sunday	12:17AM	1:38PM
Monday	1:10AM	2:43PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 18, 2008

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
Saipan-Rota CO 9313 8:30am 9:05am 3,4,7	Rota-Saipan CO 9598 11:10am 11:45am 1,2,6
Saipan-Guam CO9317 4:00am 4:50am Daily CO9597 8:30am 9:20am 1,2,5,6 CO9313 8:30am 10:00am 3,4,7 via Rota CO9601 12:30pm 1:20pm Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily	Guam-Saipan CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am Daily CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9598 10:15am 11:45am 1,2,6 via Rota CO9600 10:45am 11:35am 3,4,5,7 CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00pm 5:50pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily
Saipan-Narita NW 099 5:00am 7:40am Daily NW 078 8:55am 2:00pm Daily NW 075 4:45pm 7:25pm Daily	Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:55pm Daily NW 077 6:25pm 1:30am+1 Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:25am+1 Daily
Saipan-Osaka NW 083 4:20pm 7:05pm Daily	Osaka-Saipan NW 084 10:30am 3:05pm Daily
Saipan-Nagoya NW 078 8:55am 11:35am Daily	Nagoya-Saipan NW 077 9:00pm 1:30am+1 Daily
Saipan-Seoul OZ 604 2:20am 6:00am 1 OZ 604 2:50am 6:30am 2,3,4,5,6,7 OZ 606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2,4,6,7	Seoul-Saipan OZ 605 9:00am 2:30pm 2,4,6,7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:10am+1 7 OZ 603 8:10pm 1:40am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6
Saipan-Busan OZ 608 3:50am 7:20am 1,4,5,7	Busan-Saipan OZ 607 9:30pm 2:50am+1 3,4,6,7
Guam-Manila CO 891 6:00am 10:30am 3 via Yap and Koror CO 893 6:30am 8:05am 6 CO 893 8:25am 10:00am 2,7 CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 5 via Koror CO 933 7:00pm 8:40pm Daily PR 111 6:00am 7:45am 1,2,4,6,7	Manila-Guam CO 894 11:20am 4:55pm 2,7 CO 894 7:45pm 1:20am+1 6 CO 892 9:45pm 6:30am+1 3 via Koror and Yap CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 5 via Koror CO 934 10:55pm 4:30am+1 Daily PR 110 10:20pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7
Saipan-Guanzhou CZ 3008 5:00am 8:00am 2,6	Guanzhou-Saipan CZ 3007 8:00pm 4:00am+1 1,5
Guam-Hongkong CO 909 6:40pm 9:25pm 1,5	Hongkong-Guam CO 910 10:35pm 5:15am+1 1,5
Guam-Rota CO 9598 10:15am 10:45am 1,2,6	Rota-Guam CO 9313 9:30am 10:00am 3,4,7
Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; PR: Philippine Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CA: Air China; NW: Northwest; JO: Japan Airlines; OZ: Asiana; MU: China Eastern ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 100 7:00am 7:30am Daily				FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 100 7:50am 8:20am Daily				FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:00am 9:30am Daily				FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
FRE 200 9:50am 10:15am Daily				Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
Guam-Rota				FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 300 4:00pm 4:30pm Daily				FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 300 4:50pm 5:25pm Daily				FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 400 6:00pm 6:30pm Daily				FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 400 6:45pm 7:15pm Daily				FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 101 6:45am 6:55am Daily				FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 103 7:30am 7:40am Daily				FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 105 8:00am 8:10am Daily				FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 107 8:40am 8:50am Daily				FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily
FRE 109* 9:10am 9:20am Daily							
FRE 111* 10:45am 10:55am Daily							



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Oil prices down by more than \$3

NEW YORK (AP)—Oil prices tumbled more than \$3 a barrel Tuesday as Tropical Storm Dolly grew increasingly unlikely to threaten supply, giving traders one less reason to buy as a strengthening dollar helped keep prices in check.

The sell-off was a throwback to last week's sharp declines, and dragged crude to its lowest level since early June. It was oil's fifth decline in the last six sessions.

Light, sweet crude for August delivery fell \$3.09 to settle at \$127.95 a barrel in its last trading day on the New York Mercantile Exchange. Earlier the contract, which will be replaced by September crude Wednesday, dropped as low as \$125.63.

The drop offered further evi-

dence that investors who only a week and a half ago drove prices to a new high above \$147 a barrel are now quickly pulling money out of the market. It was also a reminder that, with traders for the moment turning bearish, the absence of major news can push the market down—just as incremental supply concerns previously drove prices sharply higher.

"This is more of the long exit from the market by the hedge funds," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of energy consultancy Ritterbusch and Associates. "A lot of these investors who have been supporting prices are hitting the road."

In Washington, the Senate voted 94-0 to move ahead with a plan that would require the

Commodity Futures Trading Commission to set limits on trading in oil markets by certain large investors.

A number of Democratic lawmakers and other critics have blamed the historic rise in prices on speculators that they suggest are manipulating prices.

However, a federal task force said in an interim report that fundamental supply-and-demand factors are most likely to blame for the sharp run-up in oil prices. The Interagency Task Force on Commodity Markets played down the role of speculators, saying its preliminary analysis "does not support the proposition that speculative activity has systematically driven changes in oil prices."



A US Airways plane passes behind a JetBlue plane at Logan Airport, Tuesday, July 22, 2008, in Boston.

Airlines: Cutbacks could bring back profits

PHOENIX (AP)—New travel fees mean hundreds of millions of dollars a year for beleaguered airlines, and executives say they need them more than ever as fuel costs continue to suck profits out of the industry. Plane tickets, it seems, now come with only the bare bones promise of getting from Point A to Point B.

United Airlines, US Airways, and Jet Blue all posted big losses Tuesday, though all three beat Wall Street estimates. Airline stocks, which have been at historic lows for many carriers, shot up as oil prices dropped more than \$4 a barrel at one point in Nymex trading.

"We'll manage through this," US Airways Chairman and CEO Doug Parker said of the ongoing pressure to cope with fuel costs. "It's not outrageous to suggest that what's already been done is enough to get the industry profitable in 2009."

Last week, Atlanta-based Delta Air Lines Inc. reported a \$1.04 billion loss for the quarter and Fort Worth, Texas-based AMR Corp., the parent of American, posted a \$1.45 billion loss for the same period. Continental Airlines swung to a \$3 million loss.

Amid the dismal profit num-

bers, airline officials told Wall Street analysts that the silver lining is that a la carte fees may eventually stem the bleeding.

US Airways Group Inc., for example, expects to raise an additional \$400 million to \$500 million annually, up \$100 million from earlier estimates.

The Tempe, Ariz.-based carrier has been more creative than others when it comes to fees. Besides bag charges, it has added charges for sodas and choice seats in coach. The airline also announced previously that it

would remove movie systems from many domestic flights to save on fuel.

Meanwhile, JetBlue hopes to bring in about \$40 million from customers buying seats with extra leg room this year. Its \$15 fee for a second checked bag is expected to translate into about \$20 million in additional revenue. A ticket change fee, which doubled to \$100 in the second quarter, is part of a "basket of fee changes" expected to produce about \$50 million in extra revenue in 2008.

Stocks jump as crude drops \$3

NEW YORK (AP)—Wall Street shook off early doldrums and closed sharply higher Tuesday after another drop in oil prices encouraged investors to set aside financial sector worries and go bargain hunting across the market. The Dow Jones industrial average rose more than 130 points.

Stocks initially fell on uneasiness about the continuing impact of the housing market downturn and the credit crisis on financial company earnings. Disappointing results from American Express Co. and Wachovia Corp. fed those worries. But a \$3 drop in oil—

which took crude's decline in recent weeks to nearly \$20 a barrel—persuaded some investors to wade back into equities.

The Dow rose 135.16, or 1.18 percent, to 11,602.50. The blue chip index rose 400 points last week, but ended Monday's session slightly lower.

Broader indexes also rose Tuesday. The Standard & Poor's 500 index jumped 17.00, or 1.35 percent, to 1,277.00. The technology-dominated Nasdaq composite index, which was down for much of the session on tech earnings disappointments, ended up 24.43, or 1.07 percent, at 2,303.96.

FANNIE AND FREDDIE

Getting to know a powerful pair

By **DAVE CARPENTER**
AP BUSINESS WRITER

CHICAGO (AP)—Behind their down-home names, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac are so vital to the economy that the government scrambled to offer them a lifeline. But what exactly are they, and what do they do?

They are the engines behind a complex process of buying, bundling, slicing and selling mortgages that remains a mystery even to millions of Americans whose home debt passes through their hands.

They were set up by the federal government—Fannie in 1938, Freddie in 1970—to help more Americans buy and keep their homes. Today both are public companies, their stock traded on the open market.

But Fannie and Freddie don't deal directly with homeowners. Instead, they buy mortgages away from the banks that already hold them, providing cash that allows banks to make more home loans and take on more debt.

Then Fannie and Freddie bundle the loans together and sell pieces of the whole to investors as what are called mortgage-backed securities. They pay a guaranteed rate of return—like Treasury bonds, but more lucrative for investors.

While they have not carried the explicit backing of the federal government for decades (Fannie became private in 1968, while Freddie was set up that way), each has a \$2.25 billion line of credit with the government.

And the implicit presence of Uncle Sam helped the pair grow fast.

As more and more Americans sought to buy homes, Fannie and Freddie's portfolios grew more than 10 times from 1991 to 2003. Today they hold or guarantee about \$5 trillion in mortgage debt, nearly half of what's outstanding in the United States.

The two were immensely profitable even as the explosive growth in home values slowed, then home prices began to fall. Borrowers were stuck with payments they couldn't afford. Thus began a wave of foreclosures.

Fannie and Freddie were mostly unaffected by the subprime lending crisis that has grabbed so many headlines. But even foreclosures on more desirable mortgages took their toll.

Stock in each company has

plummeted more than 80 percent in the past year as investors worried about the fallout. And the actual holdings of Fannie and Freddie dwindled.

Compounding the danger, the two companies, helped by high-powered lobbying, are allowed by the government to keep much smaller cushions of capital to fall back on than other companies.

Banks are required to hold a reserve of cash and other investments equal to about 10 percent of the dollar amount of loans they make. The cushion is intended to keep them solvent in case some of the loans go bad.

But because of special regulatory rules passed by Congress, Fannie and Freddie were able to grow their combined liabilities to more than \$5 trillion that are now backed by only \$81 billion in capital.

Seems like a lot of money until you realize that Fannie and Freddie have lost a combined \$11 billion in just the past year—and that analysts are forecasting billions more in losses in the quarters to come.

"When house prices fall very dramatically ... Fannie and Freddie have very little capital to protect themselves from those losses," said Deborah Lucas, a professor of finance at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management.

Enter the federal government and its rescue package—additional, unlimited lines of credit, plus the option for the federal government to invest directly in the two companies.

The top budget analyst for Congress said Tuesday the rescue package could cost taxpayers as much as \$25 billion.

But the analyst told lawmakers in a letter that the odds were better than even that the government would not have to step in to prop up Fannie and Freddie by lending them money or buying stock.

Congress is expected to vote this week on a housing measure that would include the offer of a lifeline for Fannie and Freddie. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson said keeping the pair in business is "central to the speed with which we emerge from this housing correction."

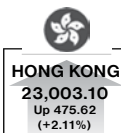
He really had little choice in offering the lifeline: A collapse of Fannie and Freddie and big write-downs in the value of the debt they sold could cripple the U.S. banking system because almost all banks have some Fannie and Freddie securities as part of their core holdings.

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

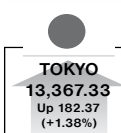


AUSTRALIA
5,172.300
Up 96.400
(+1.90%)

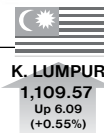


HONG KONG
23,003.10
Up 475.62
(+2.11%)

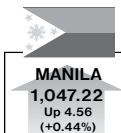
JAKARTA
2,211.9851
Down 0.7688
(-0.03%)



TOKYO
13,367.33
Up 182.37
(+1.38%)



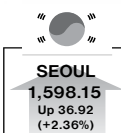
K. LUMPUR
1,109.57
Up 6.09
(+0.55%)



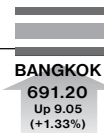
MANILA
1,047.22
Up 4.56
(+0.44%)



SINGAPORE
2,955.88
Down 65.22
(-2.26%)



SEOUL
1,598.15
Up 36.92
(+2.36%)



BANGKOK
691.20
Up 9.05
(+1.33%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

11,602.50
+135.16

NASDAQ

2,303.96
+24.43

S&P

1,277.00
0.00

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.0255
British Pound	0.4997
Canadian Dollar	1.0012
Chinese Renmbi	6.8195
Euro	0.6283
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7972
Indian Rupee	42.804
Indonesian Rupiah	9165
Japanese Yen	106.5
Malaysian Ringgit	3.243
New Zealand Dollar	1.3154
Philippine Peso	44.655
Singapore Dollar	1.3524
South Korean Won	1017
Swiss Franc	1.0179
Taiwan Dollar	30.372
Thailand Baht	33.355

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Nation

Dolly now a hurricane, to hit Texas coast

McALLEN, Texas (AP)—Dolly spun into a hurricane Tuesday, heading toward the U.S.-Mexico border and the heavily populated Rio Grande Valley, where officials feared heavy rains could cause massive flooding and levee breaks.

Dolly was upgraded from a tropical storm Tuesday afternoon with sustained winds near 75 mph, and some strengthening of the Category 1 storm was forecast before landfall Wednesday. At 8 p.m. EDT, the storm's center was about 130 miles east-southeast of Brownsville, moving northwest at about 11 mph.

A hurricane warning is in effect for the coast of Texas from Brownsville to Corpus Christi and in Mexico from Rio San Fernando northward.

In Mexico, Tamaulipas Gov. Eugenio Hernandez said officials planned to evacuate 23,000 people to government shelters in Matamoros, Soto La Marina and San Fernando.

Texas officials urged residents to move away from the Rio Grande levees because if



Luis Paredes, right, and his son Manuel Paredes board up the windows at their restaurant in preparation for Hurricane Dolly, Tuesday, July 22, 2008, in Brownsville, Texas. AP

Dolly continues to follow the same path as 1967's Hurricane

Beulah, "the levees are not going to hold that much water,"

said Cameron County Emergency Management Coordina-

tor Johnny Cavazos.

The first bands of rain began

to pass over South Padre Island Tuesday afternoon and the surf continued to get rougher. Intermittent heavy downpours began moving through Brownsville by late afternoon. Forecasters predicted Dolly would dump 15 to 20 inches of rain and bring coastal storm surge flooding of 4 to 6 feet above normal high tide levels.

Tropical storm warnings were issued for areas adjacent to the hurricane zone, and Gov. Rick Perry declared 14 South Texas counties disasters, allowing state resources to be used to send equipment and emergency workers to areas in the storm's path.

The storm, combined with levees that have deteriorated in the 41 years since Beulah swept up the Rio Grande, pose a major flooding threat to low-lying counties along the border. Beulah spawned more than 100 tornadoes across Texas and dumped 36 inches of rain in some parts of South Texas, killing 58 people and causing more than \$1 billion damage.

Texas jury indicts polygamist sect members

ELDORADO, Texas (AP)—A Texas grand jury indicted polygamist sect leader Warren Jeffs and four of his followers Tuesday on charges of felony sexual assault of a child. Another was indicted for failing to report child abuse.

Attorney General Greg Abbott said the five men are charged with one count of sexually assaulting girls under age 17. One of them, but not the 52-year-old Jeffs, faces an

additional charge of bigamy.

Abbott said a sixth member of the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is charged with three counts of failure to report child abuse.

Jeffs, already convicted of being an accomplice to rape in Utah and awaiting trial in Arizona on other charges

related to underage marriages, is accused of assaulting a girl in Texas in January 2005, according to the indictment issued Tuesday.

"Our investigation in this matter is not concluded," said Abbott, whose office is acting as the special prosecutor in the case.

The grand jury in this tiny

western Texas ranching community will continue consideration of other possible criminal charges on Aug. 21, according to a source who spoke on the condition of anonymity because proceedings of the panel are secret by law.

The identities of the Jeffs' followers who were indicted in addition to him were not released Tuesday because the indictments remain sealed until authorities can arrest the men.



Jeffs

Suspect in pregnant teen death had baby obsession

PITTSBURGH (AP)—A woman accused of slicing open a pregnant woman's belly and taking her baby was obsessed with getting an infant and even had hallucinations of hearing babies

cry after a February 1990 miscarriage, according to court records.

A few months later, Andrea Curry-Demus stabbed one woman in an apparent plot to steal her newborn; the next day,

she kidnapped another baby from a hospital. Curry-Demus, 38, of Wilkinsburg, was charged Sunday with homicide, kidnapping and related offenses in the death of Kia Johnson, 18.

Johnson's decomposing body, with her wrists and ankles bound by duct tape and layers of tape and plastic covering much of her head, was found Friday in Curry-Demus' apartment.

Flight with 7 congressmen makes emergency landing

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—A Continental Airlines flight carrying former presidential candidate Ron Paul and six other members of Congress to Washington, D.C., made an emergency landing in New Orleans on Tuesday after a loss in cabin pressure.

The seven congressmen, all from Texas, were trying to get back in time for a Tuesday night vote on an aviation safety bill when the flight landed without incident, a spokesman for one of the representatives said. No injuries were reported among the 128 crew and passengers.

FAA spokeswoman Lynn Tierney said Flight 458 from Houston initiated a rapid de-

scend to bring the plane to an altitude below where adding oxygen was necessary and was given priority to land at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

Trevor Kincaid, a spokesman for passenger and Rep. Nick Lampson, said his boss told him "there was absolutely no panic on the plane." Lampson told Kincaid the plane's oxygen masks dropped down.

"Continental Airline's personnel and staff were exceptional; executing what seemed to me a textbook performance in emergency procedure. I was very impressed," Lampson said in a release.



ACROSS THE NATION

NY priest pleads guilty to raping 3 teenage boys

BOSTON (AP)—A Franciscan priest from New York pleaded guilty to raping three teenage boys during overnight trips to Boston in the 1970s and 1980s and was ordered Tuesday to serve time on probation. Prosecutors said the Rev. Frank Genevieve, 52, met the first victim in 1977 through St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Troy, N.Y., where he served as a Franciscan brother and was later ordained as a priest. During an overnight trip to Boston, prosecutors said, Genevieve shared a bed with the boy at a rectory and sexually assaulted him as he tried to sleep. Genevieve was accused of attacking another teen in 1981 in the back room of a church during an overnight trip to Boston to celebrate the boy's confirmation. The third victim, prosecutors said, was attacked in Genevieve's car after a day trip to the New England Aquarium.

Railroad to pay \$102M after Calif. wildfire

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—Union Pacific Railroad Co. has agreed to pay \$102 million for a huge California wildfire sparked by its workers

in what federal officials described Tuesday as a precedent-setting case. U.S. Attorney McGregor Scott said the settlement marks the U.S. Forest Service's largest damage recovery for a wildfire. The Omaha, Neb.-based company agreed to settle after a federal judge in Sacramento ruled against it in February, Union Pacific spokeswoman Zoe Richmond said. U.S. District Judge Frank C. Damrell Jr. had said the federal government could seek damages far beyond the previous legal benchmarks—lost market value of burned trees and the cost of fighting the fire.

Possible remains in burned house may be gunman's

MAPLEWOOD, Mo. (AP)—Authorities on Tuesday recovered what they believe to be charred remains from the rubble of a burned house from which a gunman may have ambushed emergency workers, St. Louis County's medical examiner said. Investigators also found a long barrel that came from a rifle or shotgun, county police spokeswoman Tracy Panus said. The barrel and apparent remains were found at the collapsed house, where a gunman was believed to have holed up Monday after shooting at emer-

gency workers responding to a report of a burning pickup truck in the St. Louis suburb of Maplewood. One firefighter was killed and two police officers were wounded in the attack.

Prosecutor: Missing Fla. girl may have been killed

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—The mother of a missing 2-year-old is a person of interest in a case that is beginning to look like a homicide, prosecutors said Tuesday. Sheriff's deputies said they still hope to find the girl alive. Casey Anthony, 22, is charged only with child neglect and lying to investigators. Circuit Court Judge Stan Strickland set her bond at \$500,000 Tuesday, saying the law did not allow him to hold her without bail. He set the unusually high amount after hearing about evidence of human decomposition allegedly found in Anthony's yard and car. Her daughter, Caylee Marie Anthony, has been missing since mid-June.

Sharpton's lawyers say feds have dropped tax probe

NEW YORK (AP)—Federal prosecutors have decided not to seek criminal charges against the

Rev. Al Sharpton over his chronic tax problems, his lawyers said Tuesday. The investigation was disbanded only after the government received a down payment Monday topping \$1 million on a tax debt that had threatened to land Sharpton before a grand jury, the minister's lawyers said. Sharpton said Tuesday he was glad to be in the clear. More payments will follow as Sharpton clears up a decade's worth of delinquent tax bills related to his personal business interests and his Harlem civil rights group.

Detroit mayor accused of texting additional women

DETROIT (AP)—Detroit Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick is now charged with exchanging romantic text messages with additional women in the scandal that has him fighting allegations that he lied under oath about an intimate relationship with his former chief of staff. An investigator's report says the Wayne County prosecutor's office has determined that Kilpatrick sent and received text messages with "intimate or romantic content" to several women who were not his wife or former Chief of Staff Christine Beatty.

Asia

ASIAN BRIEFS

RP troops disarm motorcycle bomb

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Troops foiled a militant bomb attack in the southern Philippines after defusing explosives wired to an abandoned motorcycle, a military spokesman said Wednesday. The motorbike was recovered late Tuesday on a road to the main southern city of Davao but the driver escaped, said Maj. Armand Rico, regional military spokesman. He said TNT explosives were hidden in the engine and connected to a cell phone that was to serve as a trigger. The bomb was later defused. Rico said soldiers were warned that Muslim militants with links to the regional terror network Jemaah Islamiyah were plotting to hit targets in Davao using a motorcycle bomb, and had set up checkpoints to intercept the vehicle.

Tokyo woman killed in stabbing attack

TOKYO (AP)—Police arrested a man for allegedly stabbing a woman to death and wounding another at a Tokyo bookstore in an attack the suspect described as random and fueled by frustration, police said Wednesday. The 22-year-old victim died at 10:31 p.m. Tuesday from a stab wound on the left side of her chest. She was working at the Keibundo bookstore in a shopping complex connected to Hachioji train station. The wounded woman, who is 21, was also stabbed at the store. Police arrested Shoichi Kanno, 33, near Hachioji Station in west Tokyo just after 10 p.m. Tuesday, shortly after the attack.

5 kidnapped S. Koreans released in Mexico

REYNOSA, Mexico (AP)—Five South Koreans abducted in Mexico were set free unharmed on Tuesday, more than a week after they were kidnapped and held for ransom, officials said. South Korea's Foreign Ministry announced the Koreans were in custody of Mexican police and would be handed over to the South Korean Embassy there. In an interview with Radio Formula, Tamaulipas state attorney general Jose Herrera confirmed the five had been released Tuesday afternoon in Reynosa, and were meeting with embassy officials. Mexican authorities said the South Koreans were kidnapped on July 14 while driving in Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas, and their captors had demanded \$30,000.

British say Taliban leader gives up, another slain

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—A senior Taliban leader has surrendered to Pakistani authorities and another insurgent commander was killed by a British airstrike in southern Afghanistan, British officials announced Tuesday. A suicide bomber blew himself up earlier in the day in the Afghan capital, wounding three civilians, while clashes in the country's west prompted U.S.-led forces to use airstrikes on Taliban militants, officials said. Lt. Col. Robin Matthews, a spokesman at the British Defense Ministry in London, said Mullah Rahim, the most senior Taliban leader in Afghanistan's Helmand province, gave himself up to Pakistani officials Saturday.

Thai-Cambodian conflict enters 2nd week

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Thailand accused Cambodia of eyeing even more of its land and leaflets appeared in the Cambodian capital calling for a boycott of Thai goods, as a military standoff over disputed border territory entered a second week Wednesday.

On Tuesday, Cambodia asked the U.N. Security Council to intervene in the dispute over the 1.8 square miles of land near the ancient temple of Preah Vihear, warning that the two sides were at "an imminent state of war."

Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong said he had no choice but to appeal to the United Nations after discussions with Thailand on Monday failed to produce a breakthrough in the crisis.

He made a similar request to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, but the region's key bloc urged the two countries to continue bilateral negotiations.

In a countermove Wednesday, Thailand's Ambassador to the United Nations Don Pramudwinai said Cambodia was bring-

ing the quarrel before the Security Council because "the Cambodian target is not only Preah Vihear but the entire common border."

Don told Bangkok's Business Radio that Cambodia was trying to force Thailand to accept a French colonial map as the document that demarcates the border, stretches of which are disputed.

The French map generally favors Cambodia, and Thailand rejects it saying it was drawn up by a colonial power to its own advantage. Thailand relies on a different map drawn up later with

American technical assistance.

The fight over the land near Preah Vihear escalated this month when UNESCO approved Cambodia's application to have the complex named a World Heritage Site.

Thailand sent troops to the border July 15 after anti-government demonstrators attacked Thai Prime Minister Samak Sundaravej's government for supporting Cambodia's application to UNESCO. They claim the temple's new status will undermine Thailand's claim to land around the temple.

India govt hurdles confidence vote

NEW DELHI (AP)—India's government survived a bruising political battle to win a confidence vote Tuesday, reviving a landmark nuclear energy deal with the United States that is at the center of an emerging partnership between the world's two largest democracies.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and his Congress party fought hard to secure victory, and appeared to cut back room deals when all else failed.



Manmohan

An airport was named after one lawmaker's father, another was promised a high-level job and—rival politicians allege—many others received millions of dollars in bribes.

The dealmaking dismayed many in India, and the political hostility it fostered was on display during Tuesday's parliamentary debate, which repeatedly degenerated into an angry back-and-forth as opposition lawmakers heckled government supporters.

RP, Malaysia agree on humane treatment for Sabah deportees

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Malaysia has agreed to ensure humane treatment of deportees amid its massive drive to flush out illegal migrants from Sabah state, officials said Tuesday.

Malaysia will step up efforts to regularize the status of eligible Filipino immigrants, while children of illegal immigrants will be turned over to the care of appropriate authorities instead of being arrested,

said a joint statement issued by the Philippines-Malaysia Working Group on Migrant Workers at the end of two days of biannual talks.

Only medically fit deportees would be forced to travel, the statement added.

"The meeting also agreed to redouble efforts for instituting long-term solutions to the problems of cross-border travel, work and migration," it said.



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
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E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@saipan.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.com

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms for Construction Management (CM) services for the Rota International Airport Runway Phase II project, Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification from firms should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands;
2. Construction management experience related to CPA projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA);
3. Level of proficiency in performing construction management services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA and AIP grants;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience and services performed for AIP projects, and the firm's professional integrity and competence; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable.

Interested firms must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., August 15, 2008**.

Statement of qualification must be submitted along with company brochures and completed U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

All inquiries must be directed to the Acting Executive Director of CPA. The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Submit the Statement of Qualification to:

Acting Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
PO Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ Lee C. Cabrera
Acting Executive Director
July 16, 2008



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Aletta Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Published Notice of Deficiencies and Denials
with respect to Applications Filed with the Labor Department

On August 1, 2008, the Labor Division will begin publishing on the Labor Department's website, www.marianaslabor.net, notices with respect to deficiencies in and denials of applications. The Labor Division will also post these notices on the bulletin boards at its offices in the Afetna Square building in San Antonio.

The Department is taking this step in part because of difficulties in the past when foreign national workers did not know that an employer's application involving employment for them had been deficient or denied. This way, everyone involved will have access to the notice. In addition, the Department is operating under an austerity budget that requires it to use the most efficient legally permissible means possible to deliver notices.

All applicants are responsible for checking the website or the bulletin boards for actions taken on any pending application. Applicants will have 15 days from the date of posting to cure deficiencies or to appeal denials.

If an applicant provides an e-mail address at the time of application, the Department's automated processing system will automatically send an e-mail with respect to any deficiency or denial. The e-mail notice is a courtesy provided by the Department. Absence of an e-mail notice will not excuse any failure to cure a deficiency or to appeal a denial.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Aletta Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



Published Notice of E-MAIL ADDRESSES FOR INQUIRIES TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In order to better serve the public and to avoid waits or call-backs on the telephone system, the Department of Labor has established mailboxes on the government e-mail system for the most common inquiries. If you post your inquiry to one of these mailboxes, it will be answered promptly by a Department of Labor employee with responsibility for the area covered by your inquiry. You may call the Department of Labor on the established phone numbers if you prefer.

Employment Services

employmentservices@cnmi.gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about JVAs, job openings, resumes, or services to persons looking for work. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Employment Services.

Labor Processing

laborprocessing@cnmi.gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of initial applications, renewal applications, or transfer applications; or questions about Labor Processing forms posted on the website. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Processing.

Labor Enforcement

laborenforcement@cnmi.gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the status of repatriation, investigations, or other enforcement processes or to report illegal activities. This e-mail address may not be used for submitting required documents to Labor Enforcement.

Administrative Hearing Office

laborhearingoffice@cnmi.gov.net

Please use this e-mail address for questions about the issuance of orders or receipt of payments. This e-mail address may not be used for any kind of notice to the Hearing Office, for any requests for orders by the Hearing Office such as extensions of time, or for submitting required documents to the Hearing Office.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATIVE HEARING
Second Floor Aletta Square Building, San Antonio, P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone no. (670) 236-0956/0957 Facsimile no. (670) 236-0995



LABOR DEPARTMENT NOTICE

Requirements for Filing a Complete Application

The requirements of the Labor Department's automated processing system necessitate that each application be complete when filed. However, applications need to be complete when filed only for Labor Department purposes, not for Immigration Division purposes. Applications can be supplemented when they reach the Immigration Division.

For Labor Department purposes, the following are NOT REQUIRED in order to have a complete application filed with Labor Processing:

- Health certification
- Police clearance
- Passport copy
- BGRT information

Employment Services may require the filing of BGRT information in connection with a job vacancy announcement and Labor Processing may request BGRT information when examining an application, but this information is not required to be filed in every case.

A completed Job Vacancy Announcement **IS REQUIRED** in order to have a complete application.

World

Angry Serb nationalists protest Karadzic arrest



Ex-Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic supporters clashing with Serbian riot policemen, in Belgrade, Serbia, Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—Serb nationalists skirmished with riot police in the capital Tuesday, lashing out against the new Western-leaning government that captured war crimes suspect Radovan Karadzic. Karadzic's lawyer vowed to appeal Serbia's plan to extradite the former Bosnian Serb chief to a U.N. war crimes court.

Riot police deployed in downtown Belgrade to keep about

200 members of the extremist Obraz group under control. The demonstrators threw stones and clay pots at the officers, chanting "treason!" and trying to break through police cordons.

Five demonstrators and a policeman were injured, doctors at Belgrade emergency clinic said.

"This is a hard day for Serbia," said Tomislav Nikolic, leader of the ultranationalist

Serbian Radical Party, adding that Karadzic was "a legend of the Serbian people."

Nikolic vowed his party will do "all in its power" to topple the pro-Western government.

In the village of Petnjica, where Karadzic was born, a relative of the wartime Bosnian Serb leader, Vukosav Karadzic, said he was "sorry he did not kill himself but allowed himself to be captured."

Karadzic hid in plain view to elude capture

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—For more than a decade, the world's most-wanted war crimes fugitive displayed a talent for eluding international justice. His secret? Hide in plain sight.

In a ruse worthy of any thriller, Radovan Karadzic transformed himself from a leader instantly recognizable by his famous shock of salt-and-pepper hair into a man resembling a New Age mystic, with a flowing white beard and black robe.

Believed to be protected by a coterie of ultranationalists, the former Bosnian Serb strongman—a doctor and psychiatrist who received training in the U.S.—worked at an alternative medicine clinic in Belgrade.

Karadzic's disguise was so effective that prosecutors say he walked freely around town without being noticed and even his landlords didn't know his true identity.

A photograph displayed by prosecutors at a news conference Tuesday showed a gaunt elderly man unrecognizable from the robust warlord who strutted bravely before his troops during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war.

That life on the run ended abruptly with Karadzic's capture Monday—an arrest made possible by the election of a new pro-Western government that tightened the dragnet around the war crimes suspect.

Many observers have long suspected that recently fallen prime minister Vojislav Kostunica, a nationalist with close ties to Karadzic during the Bosnian war, had shielded him from arrest.

Karadzic's capture has broad political implications—for the future of the U.N. war crimes tribunal, eventual closure of the cycle of Balkan



This video frame grab image taken from Kikinda Television shows former Bosnian Serb wartime leader Radovan Karadzic attending a conference sponsored by "Healthy Life" magazine under the false identity of Dragan Dabic on January 28, 2008 in Kikinda, Serbia.

blood feuds and for Serbia's fitful journey out of international isolation.

The wartime Bosnian Serb leader stands accused of genocide for masterminding the deadly siege of Sarajevo and the massacre of 8,000 Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, Europe's worst carnage since the end of World War II.

The fugitive had been masquerading as an expert in "human quantum energy" using the fake name "D.D. David" printed on his business card. The initials apparently stood for Dragan Dabic, an alias authorities said he used.

Obama begins Mideast visit, vows to work for peace

AMMAN, Jordan (AP)—Democratic presidential contender Barack Obama stepped into the thicket of Mideast politics Tuesday, declaring in Jordan that neither the Israelis nor the Palestinians are strong enough internally to make the bold concessions necessary for peace.

Obama said he would work to bring the two sides together "starting from the minute I'm sworn into office." But he cautioned it is "unrealistic to expect that a U.S. president alone can suddenly snap his fingers and bring about peace in this region."

After meeting with Jordan's King Abdullah II, Obama flew to Israel for talks with Israeli leaders. He'll also meet with Palestinians.

Upon his arrival in Jerusalem, he spoke of a "historic and special relationship between the United States and Israel, one that cannot be broken" and one that he hoped to strengthen as president.

In Jordan, he made his comments on the struggle for Mideast peace within a few hours of stepping off a military aircraft—a presidential contender carrying body armor and wearing orange earplugs—following his tour of war zones in Afghanistan and Iraq with two fellow senators.

Standing alongside ancient



From left, Sen. Jack Reed, D-R.I., Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama, D-Ill., conservation architect May Shaer and Sen. Chuck Hagel, R-Neb., tour the citadel in Amman, Jordan, Tuesday, July 22, 2008.

mountaintop ruins with the Amman city skyline his memorable backdrop, Obama declined repeatedly to concede that President Bush's decision to dispatch 30,000 troops to Iraq in 2007 had succeeded. Still, he said, "I

believe that the situation in Iraq is more secure than it was a year and a half ago."

The Illinois Democrat predicted at the time the troop increase was begun that it would not succeed.

WORLD BRIEFS

Zimbabwe president under pressure to share power

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Europe turned up pressure on Zimbabwe's president to share power with the opposition, toughening sanctions Tuesday against Robert Mugabe just as his ruling party was to begin talks with its chief rival mediated by South Africa. Mugabe and opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai met face-to-face Monday for the first time in 10 years and agreed to formal talks about power sharing after three months of state-sponsored electoral violence. The negotiations were expected to start either late Tuesday or Wednesday at an undisclosed location around the South African capital Johannesburg. Analysts said growing international pressure coupled with Zimbabwe's economic meltdown left Mugabe little choice but to sign the agreement with the opposition.

Immunity law passed in Italy

ROME (AP)—Italy's Parliament gave final approval Tuesday to a contentious law that grants immunity from prosecution to Premier Silvio Berlusconi and other top Italian officials. The Senate passed the legislation by a wide margin after it previously sailed through the lower house of Parliament. Berlusconi's conservatives have a comfortable majority in both chambers. The legislation protects the president, the premier and the two speakers of parliament from court prosecutions while in office. It will enter into effect once President Giorgio Napolitano signs it. Critics have charged that the law is aimed at protecting Berlusconi from a current corruption case in Milan. Berlusconi is accused of ordering payment in 1997 of at least \$600,000 to his co-defendant, British lawyer David Mills, in exchange for false testimony at two Berlusconi trials in the 1990s. The defendants deny the charges.

Worse may come for epic lines at Tijuana crossing

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—This is the U.S.-Mexico border's most congested crossing, where local residents say already epic lines into San Diego have grown even longer since January, when the U.S. began phasing out a long-standing practice of allowing people they believed to be American citizens to enter by simply stating their citizenship. Border guards now require most crossers to present a U.S. passport or other proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate—though they are still permitted to exercise their own judgment in order to keep lines moving. As always, Mexican citizens and other foreign nationals must show valid immigration documents to enter. As of next June, all U.S. citizens will have to present a passport or security-enhanced card, much like an electronic toll tag, to cross—or risk being waved out of line for a rigorous security check.

Italy scales back Gypsy fingerprinting campaign

ROME (AP)—Italian officials carrying out a survey of the country's Gypsy population will only fingerprint those who don't have a valid ID, the Interior Ministry said Tuesday, apparently dropping plans to fingerprint all Gypsies after critics called it discriminatory. The ministry said the new guidelines were sent to local authorities in Rome, Milan and Naples, where tens of thousands of Gypsies live in hundreds of shabby encampments built on the cities' outskirts. Officials in the cities had already begun taking information from the inhabitants with varying methods after the government ordered the census as part of a crack down on street crime, which Italians blame mostly on foreigners. That plan provoked a storm of criticism from center-left opposition as well as from the European Union and human rights groups. Opponents say the campaign is a discriminatory measure that singles out a minority.

Environment

Internship at CRM: A start to a wonderful career

By FRANCISCO E. PALACIOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Hafa Adai CNMI! My name is Francisco E. Palacios and today you will hear about my experience at CRM as an education and outreach intern. As some of you already know, CRM stands for Coastal Resources Management. The office was established to promote the conservation and wise development of coastal resources. I am very fortunate to have been accepted into this program and will try to make my time here worthwhile as I strive to absorb vital working experiences beneficial to my future.

Being an intern at CRM is more than just reaching out and educating people. It starts with finding yourself and taking in what you feel is truly important. The staff here have done a great job in opening my eyes to our islands' true beauty and what we can do to keep it that way.

Since I started this internship program, I have done a number of things. So far, I have helped put together an "A-Z booklet" that targets the CNMI elementary and junior high students. The strategy was to make this booklet fun and interesting for everybody! When you first see this booklet, expect fun and interesting information provided for each letter. In addition, this booklet will also contain some Chamorro vocabulary. With this idea we sought to create more

booklets just like this, but in different languages so that we target other groups in the CNMI.

My favorite assignment at CRM was coming up with a script for a radio advertisement about our coral reefs that will encourage and motivate the people of the CNMI to take part in maintaining, preserving and protecting the health of our ocean. Although only a few lines long, I believe that the words are motivating, influential and will be effective in changing peoples perception of certain environmental issues, especially dealing with our reefs.

The most recent task I got my hands on was designing a "Fishing Poster", which will show people through pictures and words the legal fishing methods versus the illegal fishing methods that are strictly prohibited here in the CNMI. Before beginning this internship at CRM, I had very little knowledge of fishing regulations here in the CNMI. For example, did you know that you must get a license and registration tag for your *talaya* or throw net? Or did you know that people actually use explosives, electric shocking devices and poison to fish, not knowing that they can severely damage our coral reef environment and its inhabitants? I didn't. That is why I personally believe this poster project will serve well for the community in raising awareness on our local fishing regulations.

Green shopping

There are *many* simple things that consumers can do to help protect the environment—one is connected directly to your wallet. Green purchasing or shopping is a major part of completing the recycling loop.

You've already made the switch from using plastic bags to reusable canvas totes for your groceries, and now Coco wants to help you save money and the environment with these simple tips:

Buy products in bulk (large sizes). Cereal, juice, sugar, flour, raisins, household detergents and many more products are available in large containers. So instead of buying the small or single serving packages, buy big.

Buy products in recyclable containers. There are many types of containers used to package our food and other household necessities, and just as many of these important items are available in recyclable containers such as aluminum, steel, tin, #1 and #2 plastic and glass. There are some food items, such as pasta noodles, that come in

cardboard and can also be recycled.

Buy reusable and long-lasting items. Products that are reused are cheaper in the long run than those you throw away and buy over and over again. Goods that are designed to last a long time are also cheaper than those that wear out quickly.

Additional tips:

- Use washable plates, cups and silverware for parties and picnics instead of paper, Styrofoam or plastic products;

- Use rechargeable batteries for toys, flashlights, remote controls, etc.;

- Switch from paper towels and napkins to cloth towels or wipes;

- Use an electric razor or hand razor with replaceable blades instead of disposable razors;

- Buy high quality/long life tires for your vehicle; and

- Don't forget to bring your own cloth or canvas bag when you go shopping! **(CoCo)**

Source: <http://earth911.org/shopping/green-shopping-tips/>



Francisco Palacios during a Bird Island hike.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Other activities I have been involved include monitoring of our local reef flats. Careful observation and working together is essential in evaluating these areas, because the information and data collected will serve as useful resources in the future. So aside from working independently in the office, this program has also pushed me to practice my skills in working with groups. Two heads are better than one and CRM has done a good job of expressing that to me.

This summer, I have acquired much understanding about our



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Francisco Palacios is shown here at his desk at the Coastal Resources Management Office.

ENVIRONMENTAL TIP Don't can it!

How many times can one aluminum can be recycled?

- Never
- Just once
- Again and again and again

Answer: C. Aluminum cans can be recycled over and over and over and over and over.....

Before a soda can gets to the store...before it has soda in it...before it's even a can, it is part of the earth!

Soda cans are made of a metal called aluminum. We need aluminum for airplanes, cars, bicycles and many household items—not just soda cans.

Aluminum cans, when recycled, are sent to factories where they are ground up into little metal chips. Then they are melted down and turned into solid aluminum bars. The bars are rolled into sheets of aluminum, which are then sold to can makers who make new cans out of them.

There is no limit to the number of times aluminum can be melted down and reused. Recycling saves energy as well as aluminum. **(CoCo)**



Life & Style

Estelle Getty of 'Golden Girls' dies at 84

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Estelle Getty, the diminutive actress who spent 40 years struggling for success before landing a role of a lifetime in 1985 as the sarcastic octogenarian Sophia on TV's "The Golden Girls," has died. She was 84.

Getty, who suffered from advanced dementia, died at about 5:30 a.m. Tuesday at her Hollywood Boulevard home, said her son, Carl Gettleman of Santa Monica.

"Estelle always wanted to be an actress, and she achieved that goal beyond her dreams," former "Golden Girls" co-star Rue McClanahan told The Associated Press. "Don't feel sad about her passing. She will always be with us in her crowning achievement, Sophia."

"The Golden Girls," featuring four female retirees sharing a house in Miami, grew out of NBC programming chief Brandon Tartikoff's belief that television was ignoring its older viewers.

Three of its stars had already appeared in previous series: Bea Arthur in "Maude," Betty White in "The Mary Tyler Moore Show" and McClanahan in "Mama's Family." The last character to be cast was Sophia Petrillo, the feisty 80-something mother of Arthur's character.

"Our mother-daughter relationship was one of the greatest comic duos ever, and I will miss her," Arthur said in a statement.

When she auditioned, Getty was appearing on stage in Hollywood as the carping Jewish mother in Harvey Fierstein's play "Torch Song Trilogy." In her early 60s, she flunked her "Golden Girls" test twice because it was believed she didn't look old enough to play 80.

"I could understand that," she told an interviewer a year after the show debuted. "I walk fast, I move fast, I talk fast."

She came prepared for the third audition, however, wearing dowdy clothes and telling an NBC makeup artist, "To you this is just a job. To me it's my entire career down the toilet unless you make me look 80." The artist did, Getty got the job and won two Emmys.

"The only comfort at this mo-



This July 21, 2008 file photo shows New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez as he rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run in the first inning of the Major League Baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York.

ment is that although Estelle has moved on, Sophia will always be with us," White said in an e-mail to The Associated Press.

"The Golden Girls" culminated a long struggle for success during which Getty worked low-paying office jobs to help support her family while she tried to make it as a stage actress.

"I knew I could be seduced

by success in another field, so I'd say, 'Don't promote me, please,'" she recalled.

She also appeared in small parts in a handful of films and TV movies during that time, including "Tootsie," "Deadly Force" and "Victims for Victims: The Theresa Saldana Story."

After her success in "The Golden Girls," other roles came

her way. She played Cher's mother in "Mask," Sylvester Stallone's in "Stop or My Mom Will Shoot" and Barry Manilow's in the TV film "Copacabana." Other credits included "Mannequin" and "Stuart Little" (as the voice of Grandma Estelle).

"The Golden Girls," which ran from 1985 to 1992, was an

immediate hit, and Sophia, who began as a minor character, soon evolved into a major one.

Audiences particularly loved the verbal zingers Getty would hurl at the other three. When McClanahan's libidinous character Blanche once complained that her life was an open book, Sophia shot back, "Your life's an open blouse."

"I always told her she should be a standup comic. She was so funny in person," McClanahan recalled. "She would always say, 'Why couldn't we make these characters Jewish? Why am I Sicilian?'"

Getty had gained a knack for one-liners in her late teens when she did standup comedy at a Catskills hotel. Female comedians were rare in those days, however, and she bombed.

Undeterred, she continued to pursue a career in entertainment, and while her parents were encouraging, her father also insisted that she learn office

skills so she would have something to fall back on.

Born Estelle Scher to Polish immigrants in New York, Getty fell in love with theater when she saw a vaudeville show at age 4.

She married New York businessman Arthur Gettleman (the source of her stage name) in 1947, and they had two sons, Carl and Barry. The marriage prevailed despite her long absences on the road and in "The Golden Girls."

Getty was evasive about her height, acknowledging only that she was "under 5 feet and under 100 pounds."

McClanahan said her nickname for Getty was "Slats."

"Because she was so short, itty-bitty," she said.

In addition to her son Carl, Getty is survived by son Barry Gettleman, of Miami; a brother, David Scher of London; and a sister, Rosilyn Howard of Las Vegas.

Conductor James Levine had malignant kidney growth

BOSTON (AP)—A growth on a kidney removed from conductor James Levine was malignant, but the cancer was caught early and no further treatment is needed, the Boston Symphony Orchestra said Tuesday.

Doctors in New York removed the right kidney last week because the growth was causing Levine, the 65-year-old music director of both the BSO and the Metropolitan Opera, pressure and discomfort. The surgery forced him to miss the remainder of the BSO's Tanglewood season.

Levine's brother, Tom Levine, said that doctors found a malignant growth on the kidney, but it was very small and confined.

"Fortunately, because of early detection, it had not spread to the surrounding tissues, blood vessels or lymph nodes. Doctors reported the surgery was completely curative and no further treatment is necessary," Tom Levine said.

Surgery is the typical treat-

ment for early stage kidney cancer that has not spread beyond the organ. Radiation's not used much and chemotherapy is reserved for advanced cases. Further surgery, treatment with targeted therapies or immunotherapy could be considered in cases of cancers that recur after initial surgery, the American Cancer Society says on its Web site.

Tom Levine said his brother was relieved by the doctors' report, in good spirits recuperating at home in New York City and looking forward to conducting the opening events of the 2008-09 seasons of the BSO and the Met in September. Levine is expected to recuperate over the next six weeks.

Treatments such as targeted therapy, chemotherapy, radiation therapy or immunotherapy are usually not recommended after surgery for early stage kidney cancer - except as a part of a clinical trial, according to the American Cancer Society.

A-Rod signs with a new talent agency

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez signed another big-league contract, joining the William Morris Agency in an attempt to extend his brand beyond the baseball diamond.

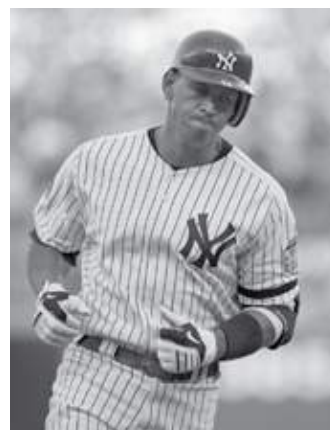
The New York Yankees slugger signed with the powerhouse talent agency in Beverly Hills, Calif., and becomes part of a client list that

includes some of the biggest names in sports, entertainment and business.

"Partnering with William Morris will enable me to broaden the scope of my career in creative and innovative ways," Rodriguez said in a statement. "I'm excited to see what we will be able to accomplish together, both domestically and abroad."

At Yankee Stadium, hours before New York played the Minnesota Twins on Tuesday night, Rodriguez did not want to discuss his arrangement with

Cast members of the television series "Golden Girls," pose for a photo, clockwise from left, Bea Arthur, Rue McClanahan, Betty White and Estelle Getty.



William Morris.

"Just baseball questions," he said while dressing at his locker before batting practice. "I just want to win baseball games."

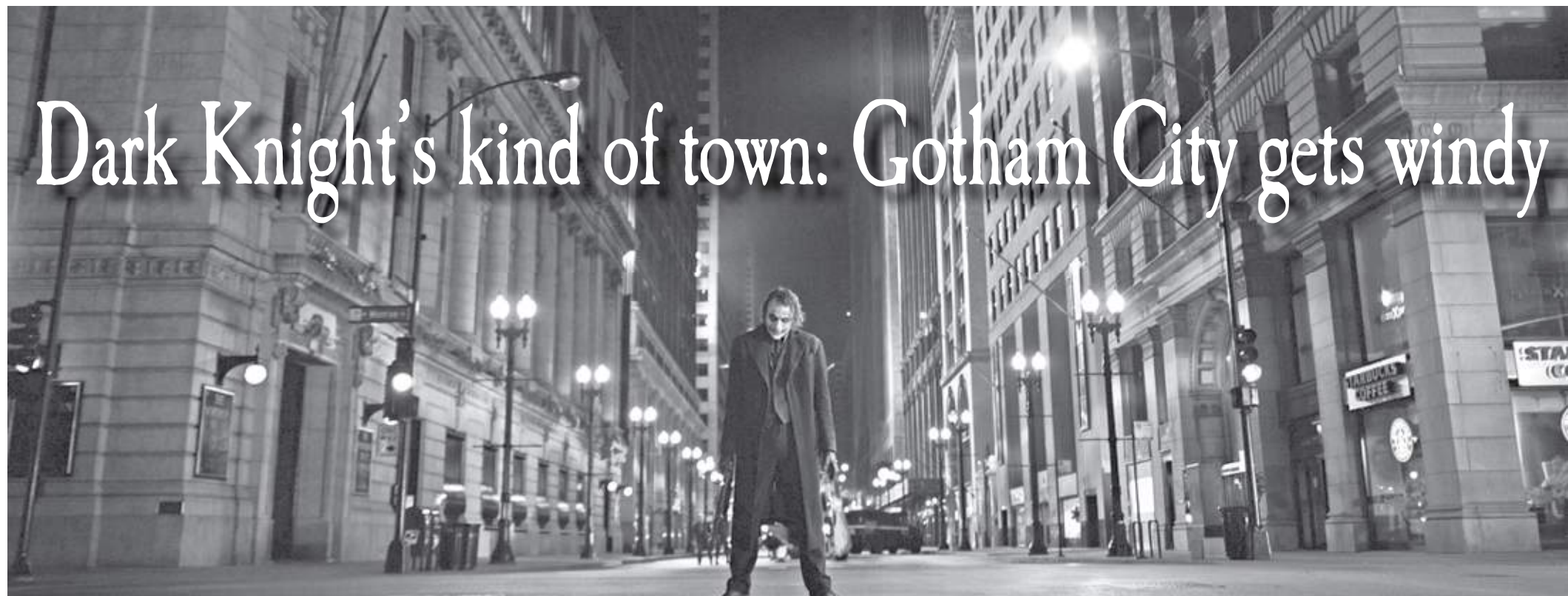
Dave Wirtschafter, president of William Morris Agency, called Rodriguez "one of the world's most iconic athletes whose personality transcends sports."

"In the baseball world, Alex is synonymous with success," he said in a statement Tuesday.

"Our job will be to extend that success beyond the field to other opportunities."

The deal, which was first reported by The Wall Street Journal, was completed this month and set up by Rodriguez's manager, Guy Oseary, a music business mogul who has worked closely with William Morris.

Among the star athletes handled by William Morris are Dwyanne Wade, Serena Williams and Kevin Garnett.



In this image released by Warner Bros., Heath Ledger is shown in a scene from, "The Dark Knight." The mythical Gotham City—long assumed to be an allegorical Big Apple—is unmistakably based on Chicago. AP

CHICAGO (AP)—Christian Bale's Batman is perched atop a skyscraper, looking over a dark and foggy skyline pierced by glittering lights, preparing for a dive to the gritty streets below.

But when he alights, he won't find the gargoyle-infested, bricks-and-mortar city that Washington Irving first coined "Gotham." He won't battle the Joker on wet cobblestones, or loom in the shadows of a dominant spire that evokes the Empire State building.

Heath Ledger isn't the only scene-stealer in "The Dark Knight." In the newest incarnation of the movie franchise, the mythical Gotham City—long assumed to be an allegorical Big Apple—is unmistakably based on Chicago.

Not that a move to the Midwest is such a stretch. Neal Adams, who has illustrated Batman for DC Comics since the 1970s, says he's always thought of Chicago, with its 1940s mobster history and miles of dark alleys, as the basis for Gotham City.

"Chicago has had a reputation for a certain kind of criminality," says Adams, who lives in New York. "Batman is in this kind of corrupt city and trying to turn it back into a better place. One of the things about Chicago is Chicago has alleys (which are virtually nonexistent in New York). Back alleys, that's where Batman fights all the bad guys."

But Chicago's back-of-the-building ethos isn't the only reason the "Dark Knight" filmmakers chose to focus on the Second City's style.

"I think the architecture of the city is really brilliant, fantastic," said director Christopher Nolan, as he strolled the red carpet while heading into Chicago's premiere of the film last week. "That gave us an incredible amount of variety that's used as the background for the film."

Nolan, who once lived in Chicago, spent three weeks here shooting the previous film, "Batman Begins." For "The Dark Knight," he expanded that time to three months.

And by no means did his cameras shy from the buildings and landmarks, elevated trains and underground streets that easily identify the Windy City: He flipped a semi-truck on LaSalle Street. He blew up abandoned buildings on the city's west side. Cameras pan above the Chicago Board of Trade, the Chicago River, the Magnificent Mile.

Chicago's modern feel lent itself well to Gotham City, says James McAllister, the key location manager for "The Dark Knight."

"Everywhere you look is a good angle," McAllister says. "Visually

Bale arrested and released; denies assault

LONDON (AP)—The darkness around Batman has deepened: While audiences were shattering weekend box-office records in the U.S., Christian Bale was in London, where his mother and sister reportedly leveled assault allegations against the star of "The Dark Knight" that have yet to become clear.

Bale said the allegations were false Tuesday, hours after the Wales-born actor was arrested, questioned by London police and released on bail. The 34-year-old actor spent four hours talking with authorities but was not charged.

British media reported that Bale's mother and sister told police he assaulted them at the Dorchester Hotel in London on Sunday night, a day before attending the European premiere of "The Dark Knight." The Sun newspaper said the complaint was filed by sister Sharon Bale and mother Jenny Bale.

"Christian Bale attended a London police station today on a voluntary basis," read a statement from Bale's lawyer, Simon Smith, of the London-based firm Schillings. "Bale, who denies the allegation, cooperated throughout, gave his account in full of the events in question, and has left the station without any charge being made against him by the police."

A woman thought to be Bale's sister Sharon told reporters "it's a family matter" from her home in Corfe Mullen, 110 miles southwest of London. A man who answered the door at the home of Jenny Bale in nearby Bournemouth said she did not want to comment.

The reports surfaced just days after "The Dark Knight," which co-stars Heath Ledger as Batman's nemesis the Joker, took a record \$158.4 million at the box office in its opening weekend. Ledger, who took the iconic villain to a



In this July 21, 2008 file picture, British actor Christian Bale arrives for the European Premiere of 'The Dark Knight', in central London. AP

deeply disturbed and diabolical place, died earlier this year of an accidental drug overdose in New York—a circumstance that has only added to the movie's brooding mystique.

Asked Tuesday whether Bale had been arrested, a London police spokesman did not refer to him by name but said: "A 34-year-old man attended a central London police station this morning by appointment and was arrested in connection with an allegation of assault."

The spokesman requested anonymity because he is not authorized to be identified under police policy. British police do not name suspects who have not been formally charged.

The force later said in a statement that the man had been released on bail pending further inquiries and told to return in September. It did not specify the date.

And in a wide shot from the early part of Nolan's first "Batman" movie, Gotham appears more like a coastal harbor than a lakeside city, its every square inch bristling with tall buildings, much like in New York.

Gotham is "New York from 14th Street down, the older buildings, more brick-and-mortar as opposed to steel-and-glass," says Paul Levitz, the president and publisher of DC Comics, which has held onto the Batman franchise since the hero's debut in the 1940s.

According to the Gotham Center for

The Sun said police did not question the actor Monday because they did not want to interfere with the premiere of the movie. The next scheduled stops on the film's European premiere tour were Madrid, Spain, July 23; and Tokyo on July 28.

In the sequel to "Batman Begins," Bale reprises the role of wealthy playboy Bruce Wayne and his crime-fighting alter-ego Batman, a brooding vigilante superhero still scarred by the murder of his parents.

In his destructive battle of wits with the Joker, Batman pushes his own ethical boundaries, and ultimately is forced into the shadows. Winding up what may be the darkest—and most critically acclaimed—superhero movie ever, Bale's Batman truly becomes, as coined by Bruce Wayne's butler Alfred: "The Dark Knight."

Bale first made a splash as the child star of Steven Spielberg's "Empire of the Sun" in 1987 and as an adult has made his name with intense screen roles. His earlier films include "American Psycho" and "The Machinist."

Bale is the youngest of four siblings, all sisters, and is the stepson of Gloria Steinem. Her assistant said Tuesday that author and feminist leader was at a writing retreat and unavailable for comment.

Bale's current project is playing John Connor in "Terminator Salvation," scheduled for filming this week in New Mexico. The film "will continue to shoot with Mr. Bale when he has completed his International tour for 'The Dark Knight,'" said Lee Anne Muldoon, unit publicist for the movie.

A records check turned up no criminal record for Bale in the Los Angeles area, where he's lived with his wife, Sibi Blazic, and their young daughter.

New York City History, Irving first referred to New York City as Gotham in the 19th century. A history of early New York, by Edwin G. Burrows and Mike Wallace, is starkly titled "Gotham." In Tim Burton's 1989 classic "Batman," newspaper reporters pore over a map that looks like Manhattan; Jack Nicholson's Joker trashes artwork at the "Fuggenheim," and the mayor is a dead ringer for Ed Koch.

Still, Levitz says Batman's Gotham has evolved through the decades as different writers and illustrators—and now

filmmakers—have taken on the series.

"Each guy adds their own vision," Levitz says. "That's the fun of comics, rebuilding a city each time." But that does little to quell the debate over which metropolis is the real Gotham City.

Life-long New Yorker Gerry Gladstone, who is an owner at Midtown Comics in Times Square, says the first writers and illustrators of the Batman comics worked in New York and used the city for inspiration.

"Their offices were in Times Square and that's where these stories came from," Gladstone says. "Gotham has always been a stand-in for the seedier side of New York City."

Standing in front of the Chicago Board of Trade (the inspiration for Wayne Manor in the latest Batman movie) wearing his yellow trading-floor jacket, Wayne Brown, 45, of Chicago, says his city has always been the model for Gotham.

"Our buildings, in a dark setting, would make it a gloomy, gloomy downtown," Brown says. "When we read the cartoons we didn't see any Twin Towers or Empire State Building. They're always showing the Board of Trade."

It's that pressure-cooker, street-smart sense that makes Chicago a real—instead of manufactured—Gotham, says Richard Moskal, director of the Chicago Film Office.

"I think (Chicago) changed people's minds about what is Gotham in terms of the real sense ... and what it is fictionally," Moskal says.

Realism certainly is the calling card of "The Dark Knight." Unlike the previous "Batman" movies—in which Gotham's streets are ever dark, often abandoned and shrouded in mist—Nolan's cityscapes don't stray too far from a typical workday in Chicago, where office workers on lunch breaks dart in and out of cafes; businessmen roll suitcases and shake hands in front of City Hall; and long shadows crisscross the skyscraper canyon of LaSalle St. on a bright summer day.

"We make (Chicago) look a lot grittier through the camera in the story," says Gary Oldman, who plays Lt. James Gordon, "but I think initially there were artists' impressions of cities, and they take a skyscraper from here and a skyscraper from there and a monorail from somewhere."

"And (Nolan) looked at this picture and he said, 'That's Chicago—we don't need to make this up ... we can actually physically go and shoot in a city. It's Gotham.'"

Mulder, Scully believe in 'X-Files' audience

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Some Mulder and Scully fans were dubious when the title for the new movie based on their favorite TV show was announced: "The X-Files: I Want to Believe."

How, the skeptics wondered, could the two former FBI agents be anything but true believers after years of encountering aliens, monsters, ghosts and everything else that might go bump in the night?

But so-called X-Philes want to believe in this franchise that started way out on the fringes and eventually brought the creepy and paranormal into the mainstream. The feeling among its creators is mutual.

"We want to believe in the audience," said David Duchovny, who reprises his role as Fox Mulder, the guy with boogeymen on the brain, co-starring with Gillian Anderson as his

soul mate and doubting Thomas, science-minded Dana Scully.

Devoted as fans might be, it's a leap of faith for "The X-Files" to return after such a long absence in an era when so many franchises compete for audiences' attention and sequels tend to come every two or three years.

It's been a decade since the first "X-Files" movie and six years since the series went off the air after nine seasons.

The keepers of "The X-Files" figure the long wait has only fired up fans even more for a new adventure. In an interview with The Associated Press alongside Duchovny, Anderson and producer Frank Spotnitz, series creator Chris Carter described the reception he got at a fan gathering in Chile, where he had no idea the show had such a following.

"It was wild and warm and

enthusiastic. They had an expo where they re-created Mulder's desk," said Carter, who also directed the new movie and co-wrote it with Spotnitz. "It was just amazing to be sitting there eating sunflower seeds (Mulder's favorite snack) at Mulder's desk in Chile."

Anderson recalled a similar reaction when they appeared earlier this year at New York Comic Con, a fan convention.

"The response that we got from the audience was almost, it was crazy. That was kind of the beginning of my realizing, people do still care," Anderson said. "I also think it's gotten passed down through the generations to kids of people who first watched it on TV."

"The X-Files" debuted in 1993 and quickly won a loyal cult audience. Strong word of mouth gradually drew more and

more fans to the weird show with its ongoing story arc about alien visitations to Earth and clever stand-alone stories that one week might deal with life-sucking bugs unleashed from old-growth timber, and another week might touch on monstrous humans resulting from generations of inbreeding.

At the heart was Mulder, a brilliant FBI agent convinced his sister was abducted by aliens. Nicknamed "Spooky" by derisive colleagues, Mulder handled the X-Files, cases involving unexplained phenomena the bureau would prefer to sweep under the rug.

Scully, a medical doctor, was assigned as Mulder's partner, mainly to debunk his work, but she eventually became his comrade in arms, the two complementing each other's talents and maintaining a deep but chaste romantic longing.

Spotnitz said when he joined the show in the second season, "none of my friends knew what it was at that point. But by the end of season two, people were writing fan fiction. I remember distinctly somebody saying to me, 'Oh, you've got them. Once they're actually making it their own, you've actually captured their imagination.' And it's true. They're still writing fan fiction 15 years later."

The 1998 big-screen film was immersed in the show's dense alien mythology. "I Want to Believe" is patterned after the stand-alone episodes, requiring little prior knowledge of Mulder and Scully.

Drummed out of the FBI as the series wound down, Mulder has been living in exile, collecting news clips of strange happenings and hurling pencils at the ceiling out of boredom.

Scully, now a practicing doctor at a hospital, is approached by FBI agents (Amanda Peet and Xzibit) as an intermediary to bring Mulder in to consult on a case in which a defrocked-priest-turned-psyche (Billy Connolly) claims to have visions about a missing bureau agent.

And they're off and running on a trail that leads them to a stash of severed arms buried in the snow, more missing persons and some ghoulish medical experiments worthy of Frankenstein.

"Chris had a Border collie when we started and I had a half-Border collie, and I always



AP
Actor David Duchovny and actress Gillian Anderson pose for a portrait in Beverly Hills, California on Saturday, July 19, 2008. With aging stars, a six-year lapse since the show ended and a 10-year gap since the last movie, "The X-Files: I Want to Believe" is trying to reconnect with an audience saturated on edgy newer sci-fi and fantasy.

thought of Mulder like a Border collie. He needed a job, so when you see him at first, he's like a Border collie who's a lapdog," Duchovny said. "It's not right. And the movie's a little bit about him getting his job back. That's where his heart is."

His heart also clearly remains with Scully. They spar just like old times, but they share the most explicit moments of affection in their 15 years together, though still restrained by Hollywood romantic standards.

Many fans always wanted to see Mulder and Scully in an all-out love affair, but Anderson said it was wise for Carter and Spotnitz to steer the show clear of that.

"They ended up playing the parents of the fans who thought they knew what they wanted, but if they had gotten what they wanted, I think they would have been sorely disappointed," Anderson said. "It would have had

a negative effect on the series. But what was given to them was so electric and so long-lasting that it helped to carry through all the way to the end."

Cast and crew are game for more "X-Files" movies if fans still believe strongly enough to convince distributor 20th Century Fox that the audience is there.

Now that Mulder has his foot back in the door at the FBI, the alien mythology that obsessed him on the job could be resurrected for a future film, Carter said.

"There's a looming date in 2012 which is part of the literature, if you will, on a Mayan calendar. It's supposed to be when the aliens do something," Carter said. "We've mentioned that date a number of times in the series, so it's something that we certainly would be looking at. I'm not sure exactly how yet, but if there is a next movie, we would consider doing it then."

Foreigner's Mick Jones says new songs on the way

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Foreigner's Mick Jones says the band's new career retrospective "No End in Sight: The Very Best of Foreigner" is a signal that new material is on the way.

Besides the band's hits as well as some deeper album cuts and live versions, the double-disc set released last week includes one new track, "Too Late."

Jones, a founding member of the group, told the Associated Press on Tuesday that a "fuller"

new album will be out next year.

"We haven't had the time because of the tour to concentrate on a whole album but we wanted something out that denotes the fact that the band is alive and taking this seriously."

Foreigner had a run of hit singles and albums from the late 1970s through the '80s with Lou Gramm on vocals. They included "Cold as Ice," "Urgent" and "Waiting for a Girl Like You."

A reconfigured lineup featur-

ing Kelly Hansen at the mike has been touring the past few years and is currently co-headlining shows with Bryan Adams. The tour stops Thursday.

"I kind of wanted to almost reconstruct the foundation of the band. I wasn't happy with the way the band drifted into obscurity toward the end of the '90s," the 63-year-old Jones said. "So this is a chance to re-establish ourselves and regain some prestige and respect."

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Dark Knight

Fri & Sat 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
 Sun thru Thurs 1:00 4:00 7:00

Christian Bale, Heath Ledger, Aaron Eckhart
 Superhero Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A hard-drinking superhero with a notorious reputation as a womanizer enters into an unlikely affair with a small-town housewife in director Peter Berg's unconventional look at the private life of a superhuman crime-fighter. Will Smith stars as the embittered do-gooder whose lifestyle is more akin to a rock star than a role model, and who has grown as disillusioned with his once-admiring public as they have of him. ~ Jason Buchanan, All Movie Guide



Space Chimps

Fri & Sat 1:05 4:05 7:05 9:35
 Sun thru Thurs 1:05 4:05 7:05

Andy Samberg, Cheryl Hines, Kenan Thompson, Stanley Tucci
 Family-Oriented Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Disney and Pixar join forces for this computer-animated tale about a wide-eyed robot who travels to the deepest reaches of outer space in search of a newfound friend. The year is 2700, and planet Earth has long been uninhabitable. For hundreds of years, WALL-E (Waste Allocation Load Lifter Earth-Class) has been taking out the trash, and collecting precious knick-knacks in order to stave off the boredom of his dreary routine. Little does WALL-E realize that he has recently stumbled onto a secret that could save planet Earth, and once again make the ravaged planet safe for all humankind. When highly advanced search robot EVE makes friends with WALL-E and realizes the value of his remarkable discovery, she excitedly races back to let the humans know that there's hope for their home planet after all.



Mamma Mia

Fri & Sat 1:20 4:10 7:20 9:55
 Sun thru Thurs 1:20 4:10 7:20

Meryl Streep, Pierce Brosnan, Colin Firth, Stellan Skarsgård, Julie Walters
 Comedy, Musical Romance • Rated G



Meet Dave

Fri & Sat 1:25 4:20
 Sun thru Thurs 1:25 4:20

Eddie Murphy, Elizabeth Banks
 Sci-Fi Comedy • Rated PG



Hellboy II

Fri & Sat 1:10 4:30 7:15 9:40
 Sun thru Thurs 1:10 4:30 7:15

Selma Blair and Ron Perlman
 Monster Film, Action, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Hancock

Fri & Sat 1:30 4:25 7:30 9:30
 Sun thru Thurs 1:30 4:25 7:30

Will Smith, Charlize Theron
 Action, Comedy • Rated PG 13



Journey To The Center Of The Earth

Fri & Sat 1:15 4:15 7:10 9:45
 Sun thru Thurs 1:15 4:15 7:10

Brendan Fraser, Anita Briem, Josh Hutcherson
 Adventure, Fantasy, Action • Rated PG



Wanted

Fri & Sat 7:25 9:50
 Sun thru Thurs 7:25

James McAvoy, Angelina Jolie
 Action • Rated R

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Omarosa: Wendy Williams is 'a fake and a phony'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Omarosa is not sorry for sparring with Wendy Williams. "I stand by everything I said," Omarosa told The Associated Press on Tuesday.

The reality star—whose full name is Omarosa Manigault-Stallworth—appeared Monday on "The Wendy Williams Show" to promote her upcoming book but instead spent more time trading insults with radio personality-turned-talk show host Wendy Williams, who infamously engaged Whitney Houston during an interview on her radio show in 2003.

"When you're not honest with the American people, they do not respond well to you," said Omarosa, who became famous after appearing on the first season of NBC's "The Apprentice." "She should just go ask Star Jones about that. Honesty needs to be there. She's a phony. As long as she continues to be a fake and a phony, she won't be successful."

Omarosa told the AP that the show's promos and introductions for her appearance are what originally ruffled her feathers and prompted her to tell Williams that she would not be disrespected. Things got uglier when Williams



In this photo released by "The Wendy Williams Show" showing Omarosa, left, during a visit with Wendy Williams, right, on the set of her new television show on Fox TV, on Monday July 21, 2008.

grabbed Omarosa's book cover to hold it up to the camera, and Omarosa yanked it back out of Williams' hand.

"She snatched it out of my hand," Omarosa told the AP. "She didn't say, 'Can I see it?'"

The tussle gave way to Omarosa attacking Williams' appearance, asking her whether she had had a nose job and suggesting she shouldn't wear wigs. During the heated ex-

change, Williams called Omarosa a "typical angry black woman" and advised Omarosa that cosmetic injections could fix her wrinkles.

Following Omarosa's appearance, Williams told the AP she thought the unprovoked aggression was a publicity stunt and called Omarosa "a delusional, D-list, pathetic woman." Williams also said that Omarosa would not be invited back on

"The Wendy Williams Show," which airs on Fox-owned stations in Los Angeles, Detroit, Dallas and New York.

Omarosa was a contestant on the first season of "The Apprentice" starring Donald Trump in 2004. Her domineering personality quickly earned her enemies among fellow contestants and TV viewers. She later appeared on VH1's "The Surreal Life" and "The Celebrity Apprentice."

Kid Rock gets probation in Waffle House fight

DECATUR, Ga. (AP)—Kid Rock has been sentenced to a year's probation and fined \$1,000 for his role in a fight at a suburban Atlanta Waffle House last fall.

The DeKalb County solicitor's office said the 37-year-old was also sentenced Monday to six hours of anger management counseling and 80 hours of community service.

The entertainer, whose real name is Robert J. Ritchie, pleaded no contest to one count of simple battery. Four counts of

battery were dropped.

Ritchie's tour bus stopped at the Waffle House about 5 a.m. on Oct. 21 after a performance in downtown Atlanta. An exchange of words with a customer escalated into a fight that spilled from the restaurant into the parking lot.

Ritchie and five members of his entourage were arrested. They appeared with him in court, and two of them pleaded no contest and received similar sentences of probation and community service. The judge dropped charges

against the other three.

"After viewing the videotape, it was decided that they weren't involved," said Artealia Gilliard, spokeswoman for Solicitor-General Robert D. James Jr.

Ritchie's attorney, Darryl Cohen, said Tuesday that Ritchie was "not terribly unhappy" with the outcome although he believed he was not at fault.

"I think my client is satisfied," Cohen said. "He would have liked to have tried it. He came within a hairbreadth of going to trial."

Danson relishes first post-'Cheers' Emmy nod



Ted Danson poses at the premiere of the film "Step Brothers" in Los Angeles, Tuesday, July 15, 2008.

NEW YORK (AP)—Ted Danson is relishing his first Emmy nomination since "Cheers."

In a remarkable run, Danson was nominated 11 years in a row for each season of the beloved Boston bar comedy, winning twice and mixing in another nomination for the 1984 TV film "Some-

thing About Amelia," in which he played a father suspected of incest.

But the 60-year-old Danson will be back at the Emmys after being nominated as a supporting actor for his work on the FX drama "Damages." Danson says the honor has more meaning this time around.

"When you're younger and you get nominated, there was part of me—I don't know if I took it for granted—but now it's a very rich experience," Danson told The Associated Press. "This is really lovely."

On the FX show, Danson plays Arthur Frobisher, a billionaire CEO who's the target of a class-action lawsuit. He and lawyer Patty Hewes (Glenn Close) are intense adversaries in a legal battle with Hewes representing employees who lost their savings when Frobisher's company went under.

In the last episode of the first season of "Damages," Danson's character was shot and his fate left unclear. Last week at the Television Critics Association press tour in Los Angeles, FX President John Landgraf said that Frobisher survives and that Danson will be back for next season.

Danson is nominated alongside William Shatner ("Boston Legal"), John Slattery ("Mad Men"), Michael Emerson ("Lost"), and his "Damages" co-star Zeljko Ivanek, who portrays Frobisher's cunning lawyer.

Man's distance from mother is cause for wife's concern

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My wife thinks I have a problem because I do not have a close relationship with my mother. We go for weeks without talking or seeing each other, and it doesn't bother me. Since I was about 13, my parents were hardly ever around. My mom was a workaholic, and my dad was an alcoholic, so I became totally self-sufficient.



Dear Abby

Now I am 21, and I'm not bothered that I have little contact with my mother. I acknowledge that she gave me life, but that's where it ends. I would like to know your thoughts about all this.

NO REGRETS, SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

DEAR NO REGRETS: It's sad that at such an important time in your life you had no parents to talk to. But this wasn't your mother's fault. With an alcoholic husband — who I'm guessing had trouble with employment—and a son to provide for, it's not surprising that she became a "workaholic." It may have been a necessity.

I would be curious to know what kind of relationship you have with your father. While it's regrettable that you have so little communication with your mother, if this has been the pattern that was set since you were 13, it is also understandable. Your wife means well, but she should not "stir the pot."

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have no children but have had two dogs since we became a couple. This year, our two 13-year-old Dalmatians passed away within four months of each other. We are grieving but realize our "children" are in a better, pain-free place.

Our vets and physical therapists played an extremely active role during their lives and after their passing. Although it's their "job," what is the appropriate way to acknowledge the love and extra efforts they put into caring for our dogs? (One vet even gave me her cell number.)

SORROWFUL IN RENO, NEV.

DEAR SORROWFUL: You could make a donation in their honor to an animal-related cause. However, no tangible item you could give them would mean as much as a personal letter thanking them for their caring, support and professionalism during this difficult time. It's something that could be read and re-read over the years, or even framed. And I'm sure either gesture would be appreciated.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I am 26 and lived with "Mackie" for three years. Although we were not legally married, I referred to him as "my husband."

We have now split up. I refer to this as "the divorce," and the time we were together as "when we were married." My conservative mother seems to understand why I do this. However, others choose to correct me—rather rudely.

My question is, what would you call this? And what do I say to those who feel the need to tell me how I should attribute an event in my life?

SINGLE NOW, IN MISSISSIPPI

DEAR SINGLE NOW: As much as you loved "Mackie" and "felt" married while you were together, the reality is that you were not legally married. I agree that when couples end their relationships—married or not—it is a divorce in the emotional sense. And my Webster's New World Dictionary, Third College Edition, defines divorce as "any complete separation or disunion." So you're half-right. Tell them that the divorce was as painful as if you'd had a marriage license, and let it go at that.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: *Dear Abby, Anger Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included.)

Jonas Brothers buy house in Dallas-Fort Worth area

WESTLAKE, Texas (AP)—The Jonas Brothers reportedly bought a house in a Dallas-Fort Worth suburb — and some young neighbors sound thrilled.

Tarrant County records obtained by The Dallas Morning News indicate that the three band members granted power of attorney to their mother, Denise Jonas, to buy a \$2.8 million, six-bedroom house in Vaquero, a gated community in the suburb of Westlake. The documents were signed June 12.

A real estate agent confirmed the house's sale but said the contract prevented her from commenting further. A publicist for the band, which began a nationwide tour last month, declined to comment.

"Yeah, I heard they are moving into the area!" 9-year-old Emily Clark said with wide eyes as she jumped out of the pool at Westlake's Solana Club. They're coming in three months, she said with an air of certainty.

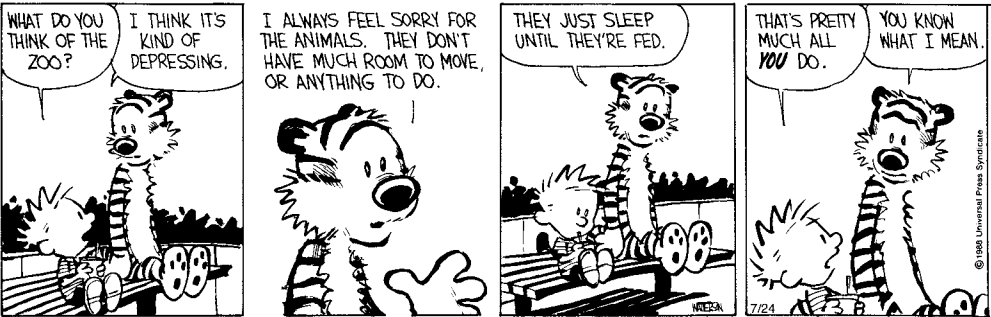
The exclusive neighborhood already includes major leaguer Mark Teixeira, former star quarterbacks Drew Bledsoe and Terry Bradshaw, not to mention several pro golfers.

Former British Open champion Brian Watts discovered he might have new neighbors when he returned from Japan.

Pastimes

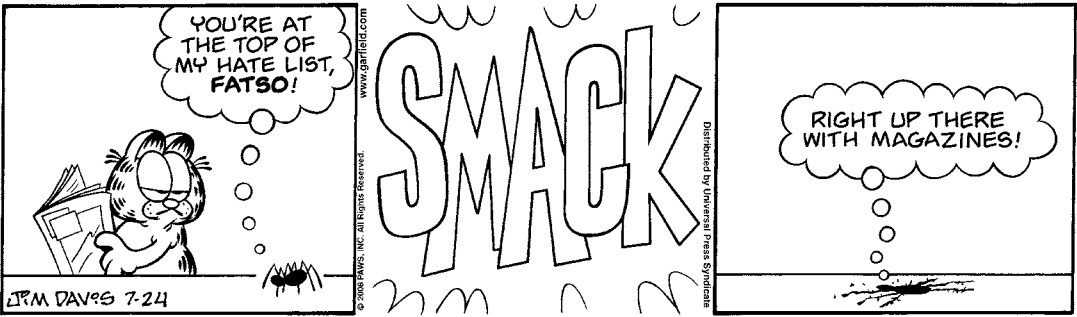
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



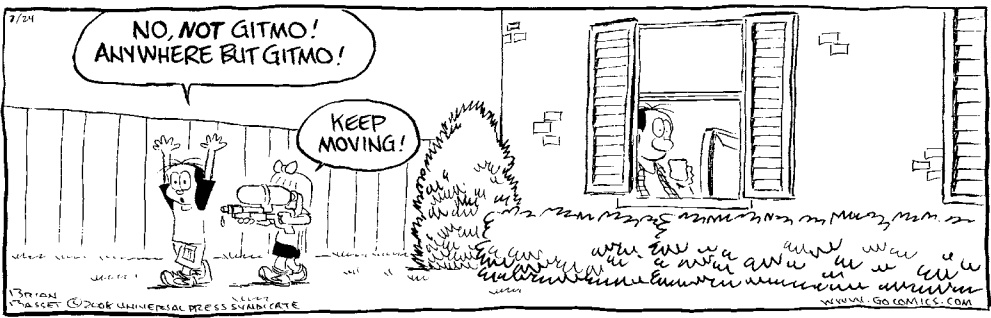
Garfield®

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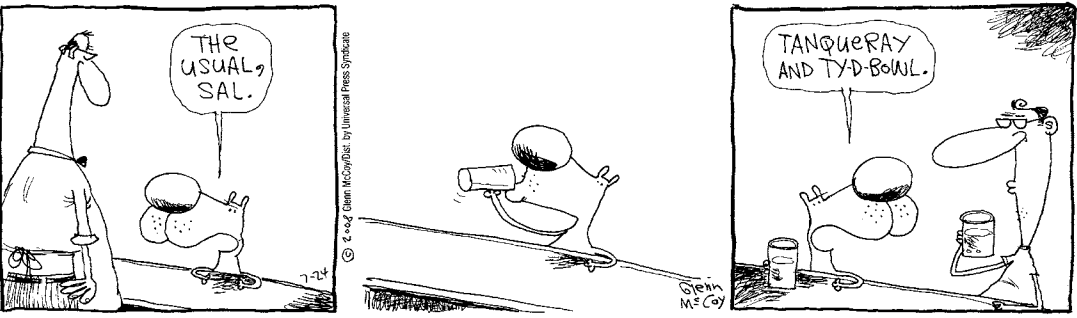
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Brit's elevator

5 Wonka creator

9 Spy novel org.

12 Epps or Sharif

13 Burn soother

14 Samovar

15 Small crustacean

17 Cauldron

18 Take a — (try)

19 Glistened

21 Dorothy's auntie

22 Theme

24 Cabbie

27 Tail movement

28 Headliner

31 Lennon's lady

32 Indivisible

33 16-Down's mate

34 Glitch in print

36 Application

37 A little lower?

38 Cognizant

40 Circle ratio

41 Candle type

43 Worshipers' niche

47 Pussy-cat's partner

48 The Gulf of Bothnia is part of it

51 Retainer

52 Reed instrument

53 Covers

54 NAFTA signatory

55 Grate

56 Being (Lat.)

4 Man with all the answers?

5 Crazy

6 The whole enchilada

7 Weeding tool

8 Minimum

9 Something one likes

10 Press agent?

11 Initial stake

16 33-Across' mate

20 Towel-embroidery word

22 Imposing home

23 Curved molding

24 Stolen

25 Whatever number

26 Admit fault for a lesser charge

27 "The Caine Mutiny" author

29 Hole-making device

30 Ump

35 Have bills

37 Enclose

39 Viny shelter

40 — Beta

41 Kappa

41 Bean curd

42 Overwhelms

43 Unit of progress

44 Wife/sister of Osiris

45 —

46 Declassified

46 School Survival Guide

46 Relaxation

49 Lawyers' org.

50 Section of L.A.?

Solution time: 25 mins.

AWLS ENS AFAR

CROC POP LIME

TAKE FIVE AVID

SPINET LAREDO

TEA LAMS

EMS SPY HETUP

BOTH HER DASH

BAED NAP RED

RAND DUO

UMBRAE INSANE

GOUT BUCKSHOT

LOCH IRA IOTA

INKS TIL EYES

Yesterday's answer 7-24

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Anna Paquin, 26; Jennifer Lopez, 39; Gus Van Sant, 56; Pat Oliphant, 73

Happy Birthday: If you aren't happy with your lifestyle, your looks, your relationships or your job, make the necessary changes to better your position and your future. You have the potential this year to get out of the rut you've slipped into and back into the fast lane where you belong. Driving ambition will bring results that can change your life forever. Your numbers are 6, 14, 25, 33, 37, 45

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You should be doing things that include recreation, romance and a little relaxation. Travel and adventure are in the stars. Take part in activities where you will meet some interesting people. Don't let someone else's last-minute changes ruin your day. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Secrets are to be kept and anyone who lets information slip will be in trouble. Someone you meet may interest you personally. Mixing business with pleasure will cause friction in the future. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You'll be singing a different tune if you take part in something that involves friends, neighbors or relatives. Don't argue a moot point with someone who is stubborn and unwilling to budge. Be prepared to deal with change as it comes. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't let emotional matters overpower you. There are changes to be made with your personal life. You have to be willing to say no if you don't want to take on a burden. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your sensitivity and charisma will be enough to get whatever you want. Love is in the stars and much can be settled regarding your future. A new position may be an opportunity to start over. Keep things in perspective. *****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Getting involved in something that will cost you over and above what you want to pay must be avoided. Someone may try to sweet-talk you out of your money. Don't let a lover, child or friend cost you. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Work on something creative or spend time with someone who motivates and inspires you. Love is gaining momentum and someone you adore will be happy to accommodate you in whatever way possible. Plan an imaginative and memorable time. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't give in to someone who is playing with your feelings. Stand up now before matters escalate, leaving you vulnerable. Try not to leave anyone out of your plans—backtracking will not be easy. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be on the lookout for fun people and activities that will give you the rush you are looking for. Someone who always seems to drag you down may try to ruin your plans. Reconsider your connection to this person. *****

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Things appear to be going your way but watch out for someone who may broad-

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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side you with an emotional matter. Rectify the problem quickly so you don't miss out on something else that's important to you. A payback is heading your way. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Working in unison with others will help you out. Mix business with pleasure. A money matter can be fixed but don't pay for someone else's mistake. Stick to your budget and don't lend or borrow. *****

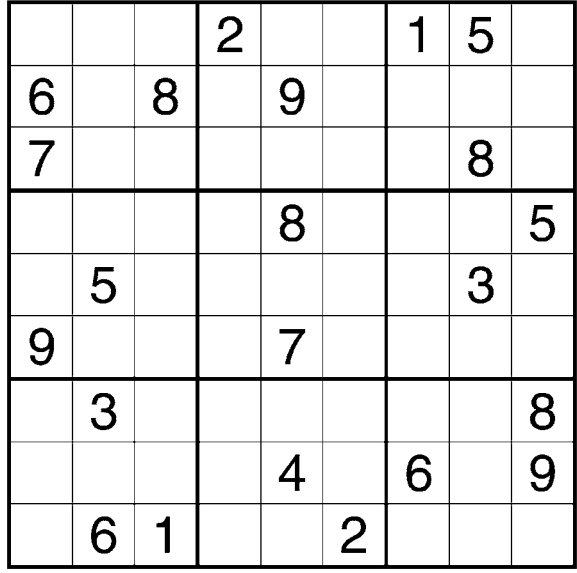
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Keep everything out in the open and don't lead anyone on. Being interested in more than one partner will get you into trouble. Set ground rules and let your full intentions be known from the beginning. ***

Birthday Baby: You are imaginative, ambitious and industrious. You are dramatic and popular and have a unique way of presenting yourself to the world.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

SUDOKU

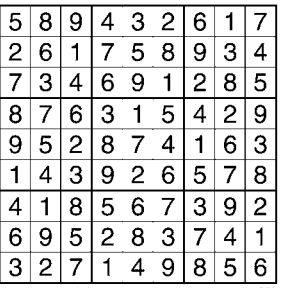
Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

GLENN BECK Solution: 11 letters



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Yesterday's Answer: Jack
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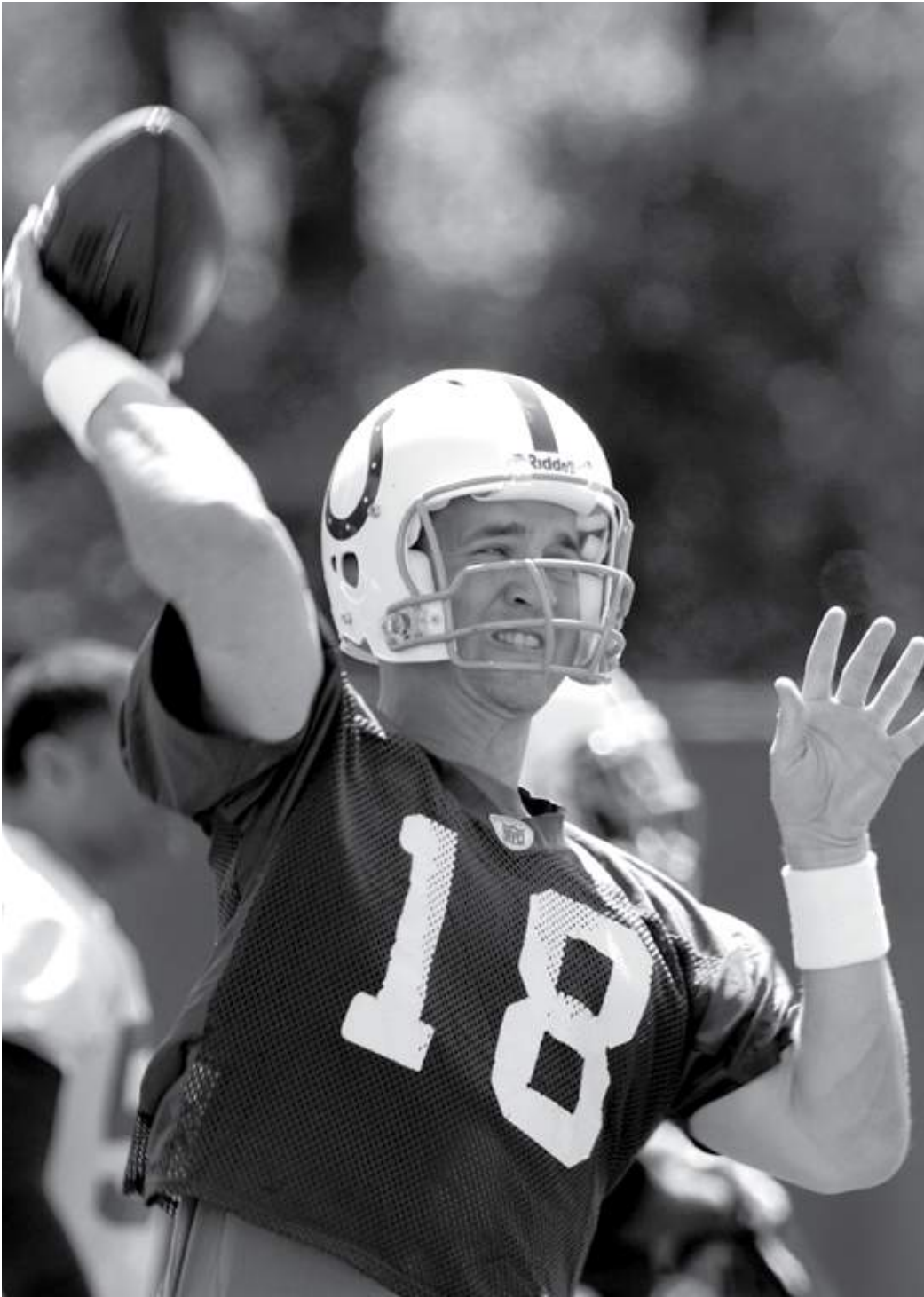
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Dungy hopes Manning recovers quickly from surgery



In this May 16, 2008 file photo, Indianapolis Colts quarterback Peyton Manning passes during a football minicamp at the team's training facility in Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Tony Dungy is certain Peyton Manning's left knee will be ready for the Colts' season-opener. Heck, the Colts coach said he thinks Manning might even play during the presason.

On Tuesday, Dungy said he was optimistic the Colts' biggest question heading into training camp—Manning's valuable knee—could be resolved quicker than most people expect. Manning had surgery last week to re-

move an infected bursa sac, a procedure doctors said would require four to six weeks to heal.

Typically, Dungy defers to the medical experts on injury matters, but the Colts' Super Bowl-winning coach knows Manning well enough to realize keeping Manning off the field for six weeks may be tougher than the rehab process.

"I have talked to Peyton and we're just following the doctors' instructions right now," Dungy said. "I'm hoping for four weeks, but if he's truly

out six weeks, I think it will be hard to keep him out. However it goes, he'll be ready when he comes back."

Manning has not spoken publicly since having surgery last Tuesday and is expected to take questions Thursday when the Colts report to Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind.

Over the past decade Manning has earned a reputation as one of the league's best and most durable quarterbacks. He has started all 160 regular-sea-

son games in his 10-year career, the second-longest streak of any quarterback in NFL history behind Brett Favre's record of 253. Manning has never missed a playoff start, either, compiling a postseason record of 7-7, and has missed only one play in his pro career because of injury.

It's not the first time Manning has battled a bursa sac injury.

During the SEC championship game of his senior season at Tennessee, Manning ruptured a bursa sac in his right knee then played through the injury in the Orange Bowl. He was later hospitalized when it became infected but showed no ill-effects; he produced the best statistics of any rookie quarterback in league history.

Still, this is the first time Indy enters camp with any questions at quarterback since Manning's five-day contract holdout in 1998, his rookie season.

But Manning's absence may have less effect this summer since Dungy, offensive coordinator Tom Moore and associate head coach Jim Caldwell had already decided to limit how many snaps the 32-year-old Manning would have in camp.

"It may be a blessing in disguise because Tom, Jim and I talked in June about giving Jim (Sorgi) some extra work with the first group anyways," Dungy said. "Peyton would like to take every snap, but Jim (Caldwell) has scaled it back every year. It would be optimal to get a couple of weeks in, but if not I think we'll be able to go."

Manning won't be the Colts' only prominent player missing from Friday's first practice.

Dungy expects four other starters to join Manning on the PUP list—safety Bob Sanders, last year's NFL defensive player of the year; defensive end Dwight Freeney, the 2004 NFL sacks champion; guard Ryan Lilja and linebacker Tyjuan Hagler. All are expected to be ready for the season-opener, Sept. 7 against Chicago.

The good news is that Indy now expects record-setting receiver Marvin Harrison to be available for practice. Harrison missed most of last season with a

left knee injury, had arthroscopic surgery on his right knee in January and also was expected to open camp on the PUP list.

"The last I heard from the doctors meeting was that Marvin would be ready to go," Dungy said of his 35-year-old receiver. "He's been running and feeling good and everyone is optimistic."

The optimist in Dungy also anticipates a rash of rookie signings before Thursday's mid-afternoon reporting deadline.

On Tuesday, sixth-round pick Pierre Garcon, a receiver, became the first of Indy's nine draft picks to sign. Terms of the deal were not disclosed. The Colts also appear close to an agreement with their top pick, offensive lineman Mike Pollak,

who was taken late in the second round.

"Things are going smoothly and we expect him to be in camp on time," said Ken Zuckerman, Pollak's agent.

Dungy said another sixth-round pick, Tom Santi, is expected to open camp on the PUP list because of an infected bursa sac. But for everyone other than Dungy, the biggest concern is Manning's left knee.

"Santi has a bursa sac infection too although his didn't get quite the national attention Peyton's did," Dungy joked. "My biggest concern is that we don't take things for granted. I think if we focus in, our talent level will be good enough to make us a good team."

Bears star Urlacher signs 1-year, \$18M extension

BOURBONNAIS, ILL. (AP)—Brian Urlacher checked into the Chicago Bears' training camp Tuesday night with a new contract, declaring he was healthy and ready to play.

The six-time Pro Bowl linebacker signed a one-year extension earlier in the day and the deal is reportedly worth \$18 million. It includes a \$6 million signing bonus, a \$1 million raise in base salary from 2008 through 2011 and then \$8 million in the final and new year of the deal in 2012.

"It feels good because I did have four years left on my contract, we all know that. They didn't have to do anything, that was obviously a nice deal they offered me," Urlacher said.

"We ended up getting it worked out."

Asked if he thought it would get done before training camp—the Bears' first practice is Wednesday—Urlacher said he wasn't sure.

"I really didn't know. It kind of dragged on all summer long, as we all know, I'm sure. Everyone reads the papers. ... It was more publicized than it should have been, I think, but I'm glad it's done now and it's behind me."

Urlacher had initially signed a nine-year, \$56.65 million deal in 2003.

"It's very enticing at the time because it's a lot of guaranteed money up front, so you want to get that security. But at the same time, you don't know how you're going to play, either. You may outplay it," he said.

Urlacher, 30, underwent minor neck surgery in the offseason and has also been bothered by a sore back.

"I feel fine, I feel great," he said. "I'm not worried about that. Our doctors cleared me. I trust them, so if they tell me I'm OK, I'm OK. I feel fine, I haven't had any effects from my neck, from my back, nothing. So just get out there and start playing."

In 121 games, including 119 as a starter, Urlacher has 1,299 tackles, 37 1/2 sacks, 15 interceptions, seven forced fumbles and eight fumble recoveries. He has led the team in tackles seven times.

He was the Bears' first-round pick in the 2000 draft out of New Mexico and has evolved in their most well-known player with his speed and hard-hitting ability.

LeBron James leaves Team USA practice with ankle sprain



LAS VEGAS (AP)—As Team USA's practice ended, LeBron James reclined on a table with trainers tending to his sprained right ankle. A horde of television cameramen surrounded James and the trainers before team officials shooed them away.

The Americans described the injury as minor. It occurred Tuesday when James landed on Kevin Durant's foot during a closed scrimmage between Team USA and a select squad

of young NBA players at Valley High School.

Coach Mike Krzyzewski said he would know more on Wednesday, after James has had a chance to rest.

"He thinks it's a mild sprain," Krzyzewski said. "Our trainers think it's a mild sprain. So we'll find out tomorrow. But I don't think it's anything serious. Obviously, we'll look and see what happens tomorrow."

Until more is known, James' injury raises questions about whether the forward will be full-speed as the Olympics ap-

proach.

The U.S. has already dealt with an injury to another starter, center Dwight Howard, who is returning from a stress fracture to his sternum. And Dwyane Wade, one of the top reserves, is coming back from left knee surgery.

Team officials have been encouraged by Howard and Wade during training camp this week. They seemed equally optimistic about James.

"You never want to see anyone hurt, but he's had this sprain before," managing director Jer-

ry Colangelo said. "We're being told it's a minor deal. Obviously, he's got to take care of it."

In January, James missed a game with the Cleveland Cavaliers because of an ankle sprain. He returned to score 28 points in a victory over the Los Angeles Clippers on Feb. 2.

A few weeks later, James left a game against Boston late in the first half with an ankle injury. X-rays were negative and James returned for the start of the second.

On Tuesday, trainers wrapped the ankle in a black brace, and

James hobbled off the court without speaking to reporters.

Several teammates spoke to James, but none seemed very concerned that he'll miss much time.

"I ain't concerned about that guy," Wade said. "That guy is a professional. I've seen that guy get hurt one time in the NBA and come back in the second half and score 30-something. I'm not worried about him. He's going to get healthy and it'll take care of itself."

The Americans have two more workouts before facing

Canada in an exhibition on Friday. Then the squad leaves for Macau, where it opens a four-game exhibition tour. The Olympic opener is Aug. 10 against host China in Beijing.

The U.S. can replace injured players until a final roster is submitted Aug. 7. But no one was talking about James being left off the squad.

"We got time," teammate Carmelo Anthony said. "I think it's just a little mild ankle sprain. We got time. We need him to rest. We don't need him right now. We need him on Aug. 10."

A's pummel Rays to snap 6-game losing streak



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) —The Oakland Athletics

emphatically snapped a six-game losing streak Tuesday, beating East Division leaders Tampa Bay 8-1 in the American League.

A's starter Dallas Braden allowed only one run over five innings in his first start of the season, entering the Oakland rotation as replacement for Joe Blanton, who was traded to Philadelphia last week.

Jack Hannahan put Oakland ahead to stay in the fourth inning with a three-run homer, and added a single in the four-run eighth that put the result beyond doubt.

The Athletics had scored only nine runs in their previous six games.



Oakland Athletics' Jack Hannahan, right, is congratulated by teammate Bobby Crosby for his three-run home run in the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays, Tuesday, July 22, 2008, in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Yankees 8, Twins 2

In New York, the home team notched a ninth straight home win by downing Minnesota.

Bobby Abreu hit a go-ahead homer in the sixth and drove in three runs for the Yankees, who won their fifth straight overall and moved 10 games above .500 for the first time this season.

New York broke the game open with four runs in the seventh to bring up its longest home winning streak since also winning nine straight early in the 2005 season.

The Twins have lost seven straight series in the Bronx.

White Sox 10, Rangers 2

In Chicago, starter Mark Buehrle pitched 7 1-3 strong innings to guide Chicago past Texas.

Pitching on three days' rest so he could attend his grandfather's funeral, Buehrle gave up a leadoff triple in the second and then retired 15 of the next 16 batters.

His previous start against the Rangers was a no-hitter last year.

Alexei Ramirez hit the first grand slam of his career for Chicago, which nipped a three-game losing run.

Angels 3, Indians 2

In Anaheim, California, Jeff Mathis hit a go-ahead solo homer in the fifth inning that proved enough for Los Angeles to edge Cleveland.

Mathis, in a rut of five hits from 33 at-bats, led off the fifth with his seventh homer.

Cleveland's Grady Sizemore pulled even for the league lead in homers with his 24th.

Blue Jays 10, Orioles 8

In Baltimore, Adam Lind had a career-

high four hits, including a three-run homer, as Toronto downed Baltimore in a high-scoring game.

Light-hitting shortstop John McDonald broke out with four RBIs for Toronto.

The Blue Jays rallied from a 4-0 deficit after three innings.

Red Sox 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, starter Daisuke Matsuzaka continued his masterful pitching on the road, steering Boston past Seattle.

After dropping five straight on the road, the Red Sox seem to have found a remedy against the Mariners, who fell a season-worst 24 games under .500 with their fourth straight loss.

Matsuzaka shut out Seattle into the eighth, improving to 5-0 with a 2.20 ERA in eight starts away from home.

Matsuzaka saw his scoreless innings streak end at 24 1-3 when Japanese compatriot Ichiro Suzuki hit an RBI double in the eighth.

Tigers 7, Royals 1

In Kansas City, Missouri, starter Kenny Rogers pitched six strong innings to give Detroit a comfortable win over Kansas City.

The 43-year-old Rogers did not come back after a 2-hour, 20-minute rain delay in the bottom of the seventh. He gave up just one run and ended a personal five-game losing streak against the Royals.

Placido Polanco homered and drove in two runs for Detroit, which has gone from 12 games below .500 in early June to two games above.

Detroit sent eight men to the plate in a three-run fifth to take a four-run lead.

Phillies 8, Mets 6

In New York, So Taguchi and Jimmy Rollins had two-run doubles in a six-run ninth innings as the Philadelphia Phillies rallied to beat the New York Mets and take over first place in the National League East division.

After Johan Santana pitched eight dominant innings, the Mets had to make do without closer Billy Wagner, who had an MRI on his shoulder earlier Tuesday.

Dauner Sanchez gave up three straight hits to start the ninth. Joe Smith (1-2) relieved and Carlos Ruiz drove in a run with a high bouncer that shortstop Jose Reyes fielded but he missed stepping on second base. Pedro Feliciano came on and Taguchi, a pinch-hitter, stroked a two-run double to tie it. Rollins followed with a double that made it 7-5.

The Mets took a 5-1 lead against Joe Blanton, making his first start since being acquired from Oakland last week, on Carlos Delgado's 450th career homer, a two-run shot, Raul Castro's two-run homer and David Wright's RBI double in the second.

Brewers 4, Cardinals 3

At St. Louis, Bill Hall homered to snap a late-inning tie for the second straight game and Milwaukee won its sixth straight.

Ryan Ludwick hit the longest home run at 3-year-old Busch Stadium for the Cardinals. Kyle Lohse went eight innings but squandered a three-run lead and missed a chance to win his 10th straight decision.

The Brewers bunched all but one of their seven hits off Lohse in the seventh and eighth. They tied the game

with two runs in the eighth on an RBI single by Rickie Weeks and a run-scoring single by J.J. Hardy.

Marlins 4, Braves 0

At Miami, Rick VandenHurk and three relievers combined on a one-hitter, and Mike Jacobs hit a three-run homer for Florida.

VandenHurk (1-1), called up from the minors on Monday, pitched five hitless innings for his first win since Aug. 23. He walked five and left the game after throwing 94 pitches.

Atlanta was also one-hit on July 7 by Hiroki Kuroda of the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Reds 4, Padres 3, 11 innings

At Cincinnati, Jeff Keppinger's one-out double in the 11th sent Cincinnati to a rare victory in a game started by San Diego's Jake Peavy. Peavy, the reigning Cy Young winner, is 6-0 in nine career starts against the Reds with a 2.31 ERA.

Jay Bruce started the rally with a one-out single off Bryan Corey (1-3). Keppinger doubled for Cincinnati's 10th walkoff win, most in the majors.

San Diego's Edgar Gonzalez had three hits, including an RBI single off Johnny Cueto, for his sixth straight multihit game. The rookie second baseman is 14-for-27 during his six-game hitting streak.

Pirates 8, Astros 2

At Houston, Paul Maholm went eight strong innings and Freddy Sanchez homered for the second straight game for Pittsburgh.

Ryan Doumit hit a three-run homer and Nate McLouth added a solo shot as the Pirates beat Houston.

Maholm (7-6) allowed one run and five hits, all singles, while Sanchez went 3-for-5 with two RBIs, including a solo homer in the first inning off Jack Cassel (1-1).

Rockies 10, Dodgers 1

At Denver, Ubaldo Jimenez threw a four-hitter in his first career complete game and Ian Stewart homered and drove in four runs for Colorado.

Brad Hawpe had three hits, including his 16th homer, Stewart had three hits and Jeff Baker had four hits for the Rockies, who had 18 hits one night after they had 20.

Jimenez (6-9) retired 13 straight at one point. He didn't allow a runner past first base until Nomar Garciaparra led off the eighth with a double to left, and he didn't give up a run until Matt Kemp led off the ninth with his 11th homer.

Arenas returns to Wizards focused on winning title



WASHINGTON (AP)—Gilbert Arenas got the money. Now he wants the ring. Arenas, who signed a franchise-record six-year, \$111-million contract with Washington nine days ago, met the media

for the first time Tuesday and said he will be more focused and do anything needed to help the Wizards win an NBA title.

Arenas is a three-time All-Star who's averaged 22.8 points in his seven-year career, but has been slowed by knee injuries the past two seasons. He had two knee operations in 2007, missed 66 games last season and then needed to stop playing during Washington's first-round playoff loss against Cleveland.

But Arenas said he's feeling good now, will get back on the court Aug. 1 and thinks the Wizards—when healthy—are one of the NBA's top five teams. Now he wants to help prove it.

"We just have a great group of guys," Arenas said. "We're going to put a banner up there, a championship banner. We're going to do it for (team owner Abe) Pollin."

Arenas said the city of Washington embraced him. He said he was a "young hothead" when coming to town but now's the time to focus more on doing his job and helping the Wizards get a shot at winning a championship.

"I do all the little things I do out there (and that) is going come to a halt," Arenas said. "I just need to cut out some of the foolishness I do. I create hype but some of the other stuff, I know I've got to calm down."

Pollin joked about how he didn't use the best negotiating skills when talking with Arenas.

"I said 'Gilbert, you will never wear a jersey other than the Wizards—never,'" Pollin said. "I know talent, and I know what Gilbert can do. I told him 'Gilbert, we're going to pay you a lot of money and all you have to do is win a championship.'"

Arenas negotiated his own deal, one that drew some attention when it was revealed that the Wizards actually offered him \$127 million, but that he took a lesser contract to give Washington room under the NBA's luxury tax limit to possibly bring in another player.

"It's really unheard of for a player to do the kind of things that he did and make the sacrifice for the team that he did," team president Ernie Grunfeld said. "He left money on the table, and hopefully that gives us more flexibility; it's going to help us down the road."

This was a day filled with love for the unpredictable point guard. Some members of the Wizards staff were wearing t-shirts saying "Agent Zero" on the front and "I'm Back" on the back.

The Verizon Center video boards were flashing a variety of messages like "Welcome Back Gilbert Arenas," "Welcome Back Gil," and showing different highlights from his Wizards career.

In addition, Arenas received cheers when walking into the press conference—and he entered wearing a huge grin.

"This is where I belong," Arenas said. "This is where I need to be. This is where I need to finish my legacy."

Ugly scuffle mars Sparks' 84-81 win over Shock



AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP)—Candace Parker wanted to focus on all of the good parts of the Los Angeles Sparks' win over the Detroit Shock.

Unfortunately, it will be the final 5 seconds that everyone else is going to remember.

Parker was one of three players ejected along with Detroit assistant coach Rick Mahorn after an ugly scuffle with 4.6 seconds left in Los Angeles' 84-81 victory.

"To be honest, I don't recall exactly what happened," said Parker, who led Los Angeles with 21 points. "I'll have to watch the tape."

The skirmish started moments after Parker and Detroit's Cheryl Ford had to be separated after Ford fouled Parker.

On the next possession, Parker got tangled up with Detroit's Plenette Pierson and fell to the ground. As she was getting up, Pierson intentionally ran into her, setting off the melee.

Parker threw a punch at Pierson before being tackled by Detroit's Deanna Nolan. Players and coaches from both teams joined in, and Mahorn knocked Lisa Leslie to the court at one point.

"I was trying to protect the whole game, the integrity of the game," he said. "The WNBA is very special to me because I have four daughters. I don't even raise my hand to them, and

I would never push a woman. This game, I love this game too much."

Mahorn was also involved in the 2004 Pistons-Pacers brawl while working as a Detroit broadcaster, going into the crowd to try to pull Ron Artest away from fans.

"Rick Mahorn is known as a peacemaker, from even the brawl we had here with Indiana," Detroit coach Bill Laimbeer said. "He went out there to get people off the pile, and to get people to stop the confrontation. That's who he is, that's what he does."

Leslie did not talk to the media, but Los Angeles coach Michael Cooper also said he felt Mahorn was trying to stop the fight.

"I think Rick was trying to play peacemaker, but he's just too big," Sparks coach Michael Cooper said. "I was only trying to grab my players, and I didn't see exactly what happened, but he apparently gently tried to push Lisa away."

DeLisha Milton-Jones shoved and punched Mahorn after the incident with Leslie, and was ejected, along with Mahorn, Parker and Pierson. Nolan and Shannon Bobbitt received technicals.

"That was unfortunate, but things like that happen in basketball sometimes," Milton-Jones said. "The league is going to have to decide what kind of action to take."

2008 SSC Summer Classic

Contributed Photos



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers warm up for last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura gives rookies Angel Tan and Angel De Jesus some encouragement during a break in the meet.



Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura gives his wards last-minute instructions before the start of the meet.



The start of the 50m freestyle of the 2008 SSC Summer Classic.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers huddle up during a break in the meet.



The two Angels—Angel Tan and Angel De Jesus—prepare to swim.



Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a group shot during last weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool in Marpi.



Thea Minor and Angel Tan during a light moment following a break in the meet.



Angel Tan poses with proud mom and dad.



Angel Tan in action in the 50m breaststroke event.

Schleck keeps Tour's yellow jersey; Dessel wins 16th stage



Frank Schleck of Luxembourg kept the yellow jersey in the Tour de France on Tuesday, with riders pushing themselves through the Alps as the race left Italy and returned to France.

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Dungy hopes Manning recovers quickly from surgery

Tony Dungy is certain Peyton Manning's left knee will be ready for the Colts' season-opener. Heck, the Colts coach said he thinks Manning might even play during the presason.



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28 THURSDAY, JULY 24, 2008

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Shimizu, Halliday conquer Kaike

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Maimi Shimizu and Ken Halliday made history when they became the first participants from the CNMI to complete the Kaike Triathlon during its 28 staging last Sunday in Tottori Prefecture, Yonago City in Kaike, Japan.

Shimizu, who won a bronze in the half marathon of the recent 2008 Oceania Championships, finished the course in 10:42:32, which was 103rd overall and seventh among women participants.

The veteran triathlete, who finished second to Renata Bucher in the 2008 Tagaman Triathlon, finished the exhausting 3-kilometer swim in 54:18, negotiated the 145-km bike in 5:17:13, and then battled the 42.195-km run in 4:31:01.

Meanwhile, Tinian transplant Halliday crossed the finish line 201st overall with a time of 11:31:43. His splits were 56:37 in the swim, 5:31:13 in the bike, and 5:03:53 in the run.

The 28th Kaike Triathlon drew 850 participants from Japan, a sprinkling of triathletes from South Korea, as well as the two entrants from the CNMI.

Marianas Visitors Authority's Ed Diaz, who accompanied the two triathletes to Japan, said local organizers were pretty much impressed with the accomplishments of Shimizu and Halliday, given that the previous entrants from the CNMI either failed to finish the race or completed a shortened version of it.

"Both Maimi and Ken finished the race and were honored by the Kaike committee Mr. Sato and Mr. Matsunagi-san. They said this was the first time that the CNMI team ever completed the full course of the

See SHIMIZU on Page 26



Maimi Shimizu and Ken Halliday raise each other's arms in triumph after completing the 28th Kaike Triathlon last Sunday in Tottori Prefecture, Yonago City, Japan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Hiro impressed with youngsters' showing

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura is happy with how his swimmers performed in last



weekend's 2008 SSC Summer Classic, especially the first-timers.

The six rookies who literally plunged into competition Friday and Saturday were Daniel Camacho, Daniel Camacho, and Daniel Camacho.

See HIRO on Page 26



Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan swimmers and head coach Hiro Kimura perform their team cheer before the start of the 2008 SSC Summer Classic last weekend at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Hoon to play in Japan after 2008 POJC

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI's top netter Ji Hoon Heo will compete in Japan after taking part in next month's 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Lautoka, Fiji.

In an email to the *Saipan Tribune*, the 16-year-old wunderkind said he will be playing in the Hyogo International Junior Tennis Tournament 1 set from Aug. 27 to 31.

"I will be playing in Japan after the Oceania Junior Championships. It is a group 5 tournament and I hope to get more ranking points in Japan. I'll be needing to play more ITF tournaments if I want to be in the top," he said.

The Hyogo International Junior Tennis Tournament 1 will be played on a 9 Hard surface at the Miki Disaster Management Park Beans Dome.

Heo, along with other CNMI bets James Camacho, Mayuko Arriola, Dina Jones, Christian Miller, Rafael Jones, and

See Ji HOON on Page 26



Ji Hoon Heo, seen here in a file a photo from New Caledonia, will compete in Japan next month after seeing action in the 2008 Pacific Oceania Junior Championships in Fiji.

INTERNATIONAL TENNIS FEDERATION

CNMI skunks New Zealand, 11-0

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR



The CNMI Major All-Stars vent out their frustration against New Zealand as they sheared the Kiwis, 11-0, in Day 4 of the 2008 Little League Asia-Pacific Tournament Tuesday at the

Hong Kong Disneyland Resort.

After consecutive losses to Australia and archrival Guam the past two days, there was more zing on the bats and spring on the steps of the CNMI players as they dominated New Zealand from the get-go to level its win-loss standing to 2-2 in a tie with Indonesia and Australia.

Other Day 4 results in the Pacific Pool

saw the Philippines earn its first win of the tournament with a 4-2 victory over Australia and Guam advance to the title game with a 3-2 nipping of Indonesia.

Host Hong Kong, meanwhile, assumed the leadership in the Asia Pool after putting up a 42-0 drubbing of tourney newcomer India. The eye-popping win, combined with South Korea's 4-2 upset victory against defending champion Chinese-Taipei, means the latter would

See CNMI on Page 26